

NO TO TRUMP

FRIDAY 13 JULY, CENTRAL LONDON

Assemble 2pm, BBC, Portland Place, W1A 1AA. Rally 5pm Trafalgar Square

>>Page 20



Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2611 | 4-10 July 2018 | socialistworker.co.uk

TOMMY ROBINSON GANG ON THE MARCH



STOP THE FASCISTS

SATURDAY 14 JULY, 2PM CENTRAL LONDON

CALLED BY SUTR & UAF. SUPPORTED BY LEADERS OF 14 UNIONS & 25 MPs

MEXICO

A victory for the left in Mexico's presidential poll

ANDRES MANUEL Lopez Obrador has swept to victory in the Mexican presidential elections.

The left winger's win has devastated the bosses' Institutional Revolutionary Party. His Movement for National Reconstruction party has also won other key electoral contests.

>>Page 8

NHS



Wigan hospital workers call week-long strike

HUNDREDS OF hospital workers across Wigan are set to strike for seven days from Tuesday 17 July.

The escalation follows a five-day strike by Unison union members and a six-day strike by Unite union members at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust last week.

>>Page 4

DEBATE

Join the party at Marxism Festival

MARXISM 2018 begins this Thursday. It's a four-day political festival hosted by the Socialist Workers Party in central London.

>>marxismfestival.org.uk



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Our prisons are full of the spiritually dead'

Disgraced former Tory MP Jonathan Aitken, who was jailed for perjury in 2001. He should know

'Echoes of Diana'

The Daily Mail gets overexcited after Meghan Markle wears some trousers

'The prime minister is having to completely rework her Brexit strategy'

The Financial Times newspaper on Theresa May's woes

'A routine destination after a boozy night out'

Jo Roundell Greene, granddaughter of Clement Attlee, explains why A&Es are in crisis

'Pumping ever more money into the health service will never be the whole solution'

Roundell Greene continues

'Think bigger'

National Audit Office head Sir Amyas Morse says the NHS needs more money

'Livid'

Environment secretary Michael Gove's response to a report on a potential customs partnership with the EU. He tore it up, apparently



Lies, kidnap and torture at the hands of the British state

BRITISH intelligence agencies were involved in widespread torture and kidnap of terrorism suspects after 9/11.

That's the chilling conclusion of two reports from the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC). The evidence—just a glimpse of the true situation—should shatter any talk of the superiority of "British values".

The reports say the overseas spying agency MI6 and the domestic spies in MI5 were involved in hundreds of torture cases and dozens of rendition cases.

Rendition means that suspects were seized and removed to other countries where there were people prepared to torture them.

The committee says the agencies were aware "at an early point" of the mistreatment of detainees by the US and others.

In two of the documented cases, British personnel were "party to mistreatment administered by others".

One has been investigated by the Metropolitan Police, but the other is

FIVE FACTS

Key points from the reports are:

- 1 Britain breached its commitment to the international prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. UK intelligence officers received information from a prisoner they knew was being mistreated 198 times.
- 2 MI5 or MI6 offered to fund at least three rendition operations. Two MI6 officers consented to mistreatment.
- 3 In a further 13 cases, officers witnessed torture or mistreatment.
- 4
- 5

JACK Straw

still to be fully investigated. Jack Straw, Labour foreign secretary from 2001-2006, will now face questions over how much he knew and, given that accusations of torture and rendition were prominent in the press, why he did not ask for a briefing.

A key passage in one report says MI6 "sought and obtained authorisation from the foreign secretary" for the costs of funding a plane involved in a rendition case.

The committee says it was frustrated it could not call Straw and three others because they would only be available to answer partial questions.

The others are believed to be then home secretary David Blunkett and two intelligence officers.

Straw said in a statement, "Although I was formally responsible for both [MI6] and GCHQ during my period as foreign secretary I have today learnt much about the activities and the approach of these agencies of which I was not aware before."

TREVOR Kavanagh compared a Labour election victory to terrorism in The Sun this week. He described the threat of a radioactive "dirty bomb" in the City of London. Kavanagh said this would make it "uninhabitable" and wreck the economy. "A Jeremy Corbyn election victory would achieve much the same objective," claimed Kavanagh.

Corbyn the dirty bomber?

● MPS HAVE to focus more on being MPs instead of their second jobs, a report has said.

The Committee on Standards in Public Life told MPs they should also be more open about how they are really spending their time.

It said recent cases had raised questions about whether MPs are carrying out their primary roles.

Hillsborough trials are set to go ahead

DAVID Duckenfield will face trial for the manslaughter by gross negligence of 95 Liverpool fans who died due to the Hillsborough disaster.

Duckenfield was match commander on the day of the disaster. Judge Sir Peter Openshaw lifted a stay on his prosecution last week.

Some 96 fans died as a result of a crush at the Hillsborough stadium in April 1989.

No one can be prosecuted over the death of the 96th victim, Tony Bland, as he died more than a year and a day after his injuries were sustained.

Former Sheffield Wednesday club secretary Graham Mackrell David Duckenfield

charged with health and safety offences.

The trials of Mackrell and Duckenfield are due to begin on 10 September.

Former South Yorkshire Police (SYP) solicitor Peter Metcalf, and former SYP officers Donald Denton and Alan Foster, are due to stand trial in January next year.

They are charged with perverting the course of justice.

A hearing to determine whether former chief constable Norman Bettison will face trial has been adjourned until August.

Pension gap means poverty for women

YOUNG WOMEN will have over 10 percent less in their pension when they retire than men, according to a report.

The Fidelity International firm said the gap was due to women having children and earning less in general.

It said women in their late 20s or early 30s will have an 11 percent smaller pension pot than men when they retire.

The report said women were more likely to take time off work or work part time to care for family members than men.

● THE NUMBER of teachers working in state-funded schools in England is at its lowest level since 2013.

Government figures show that the number of teachers fell by over 5,000 between 2016 and last year.

But the number of children went up by 66,000.

The crisis means more staff teach subjects they aren't qualified in.

Schools—empty of teachers?

Moazzam Begg—'Put Straw and Blair on trial'

MOAZZAM BEGG is a former Guantanamo inmate and director of detainee rights organisation Cage.

He spoke to Socialist Worker about the reports detailing the British state's involvement in torture (see left).

"It's taken nearly two decades for this to come out about these crimes," he said.

"And it's important that we call them crimes—war crimes committed in the context of the war on terror.

"My organisation Cage produced a list of 29 cases—including one pre-9/11 case—where British MI5 were complicit, sometimes in torture, other times just handing over questions. "What the ISC report gives no details about is what next.

"Will there be any prosecutions or just the same old rhetoric of 'lessons have been learned'.

Devices

"Jack Straw said that people were conspiracy theorists if they believed that British devices were involved in torture.

"I believe he was speaking under 'parliamentary privilege'—saying those lies when he knew people were being tortured.

"I was asked on the BBC if I still think that. Yes, I do. If it was anyone from a Sub-Saharan country, responsible for some lesser crime, without a shadow of a doubt they would be being prosecuted.

"There needs to be a stronger movement now for them to be prosecuted for war crimes, not just in Guantanamo but in Iraq.

"The war on terror is still going on in Syria and Iraq.

"In 2014 a Senate Committee report admitted to torture taking place.

"The consequence of releasing this truth but doing nothing about it is a president today who can say that torture works, and is worse than George Bush or Barack Obama."

Get in touch with Socialist Worker



Email reports@socialistworker.co.uk
Web www.socialistworker.co.uk
Facebook "Socialist Worker (Britain)"
Twitter @socialistworker



Newsdesk
020 7840 5656
Circulation
020 7840 5601



Write to
Socialist Worker
PO Box 74955
London
E16 9EJ

Hold the streets against Trump and the fascists

ANTI-RACISTS ARE building opposition to the renewed threat of the British far right regrouping.

Supporters of jailed Nazi Tommy Robinson plan to rally in Whitehall, central London, next Saturday, 14 July.

It will come the day after US president Donald Trump descends on the capital (see page 20).

Together Against Trump has called a demonstration in London next Friday, 13 July, and local groups plan protests in towns and cities across Britain.

Stand Up To Racism and Unite Against Fascism have called a protest against the fascists with the backing of Labour MPs and all the major unions (see pages 10&11).

On Monday Unite union general secretary Len McCluskey, who backs the 14 July anti-racist demonstration, wrote in the Daily Mirror newspaper that "We must tackle the far right alliance head on".

These mobilisations are a key test for anti-racists in Britain.

Appeal

Robinson is launching an appeal against his 13-month sentence on Monday of next week at the Royal Courts of Justice in London.

If he's released, it will be a boost to his fascist and racist supporters.

If Robinson remains behind bars, the fascists will attempt to paint him as a "free speech" martyr.

In fact he wants to extinguish free speech for his opponents.

The far right senses an opportunity to rebuild a mass movement on the streets to terrorise Muslims, minorities and their political opponents.

A 15,000-strong "Free Tommy" rally on Whitehall on 9 June was the largest outdoor mobilisation by fascists in British history.

The Nazis and the racist populists of Ukip are openly working together. Ukip leader Gerrard Batten regularly



A racist wears a Tommy Robinson t-shirt

speaks at fascist rallies and appeals for the crowd to join his party.

The bridge between the two is the Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA). A new crop of young people—inspired by Trump and the

ANTI-FASCISTS STAND their ground

US alt right—are getting behind the fascists.

Major alt right figures are joining Ukip, as was reported by Socialist Worker last week.

What's striking about the "Free Tommy" protests is their international dimension with speakers from across the European far right.

Their allies include the Austrian Tory/Nazi coalition whose Tory prime minister Sebastian Kurz called for an "axis" of Austria, Germany and Italy to "secure Europe's borders".

But there are possibilities for resistance too, and international unity against the racists and fascists.

Around 120,000 people marched in Vienna last Saturday against the Tory/Nazi coalition's plan

to extend the working day to 12 hours.

And 6,000 people also protested against the far right German AfD party in Augsburg in Bavaria.

Defeating the British far right will take mobilisations on the streets and building opposition to the Tories' racism that fuels it.

It also requires putting forward a socialist, anti-racist alternative to their politics of division.

That starts with protesting against Trump on 13 July—and the Nazis who love him on 14 July.

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

EU leaders lock out refugees

THE EUROPEAN Union (EU) told rescue boats to let refugees drown in the Mediterranean last week.

A communique from an EU rulers' summit said that ships run by NGOs should leave rescues to the Libyan coastguard.

It came after 220 refugees fleeing war and poverty died off the North African coast.

The charity Doctors Without Borders said the EU's rulers were "deliberately condemning vulnerable people to be trapped in Libya or die at sea".

The EU summit agreed plans to set up internment camps in North Africa after Italy's racist government threatened to pull out from the talks.

Italy stopped rescue ship Aquarius from docking last month and has refused to take in any more refugees.

Racist interior minister



Matteo Salvini

Matteo Salvini has threatened to deport 500,000 migrants and wants to draw up a census of Roma people.

He looks to racist allies in the Austrian and Hungarian governments to push for a crackdown on migrants and refugees.

The plan for internment camps was drawn up between French president Emmanuel Macron and the Italian prime minister.

The division among EU rulers is over how to crack down on refugees.

The likes of Salvini want internal borders to stop the flow of migrants. The EU and German chancellor Angela Merkel want to beef up external borders.

Greek prime minister Alexis Tsipras met with Theresa May in London ahead of the talks to discuss how to stop refugees entering Greece.

May promised to help Greece comply with a deal between the EU and Turkey, which has thousands of refugees locked in camps on Greek islands.

Her promise included an extra British Border Force ship to patrol the Aegean sea to stop refugees from reaching Greece.

Breakfast in



Sign up to our morning newsletter Breakfast in Red and get the latest news every day.

For updates and analysis on the stories that matter go to socialistworker.co.uk/breakfastinred

Socialist Worker

For daily updates and the stories that matter: socialistworker.co.uk



Download **Whatsapp** to your phone

Save **07494 519595** as Socialist Worker WhatsApp

Send 'start' to the number



Thousands join protest against NHS selloffs and more cuts

by TOMÁŠ TENGYEL-EVANS

ANGER AGAINST the Tories' assault on the NHS was on the streets of London last Saturday.

Tens of thousands of people joined the NHS at 70 demonstration organised by Health Campaigns Together and the People's Assembly. It was backed by the TUC union federation and all the major unions.

There was a sense of urgency among protesters as the NHS approached the 70th anniversary of its founding this Saturday.

George from north London had come to "warn people" about the dangers of the US's privatised health care service. "My daughter was born with cystic fibrosis," he told Socialist Worker.

"She's a US citizen but can't move back because they don't insure people with pre-existing conditions."

Fighting privatisation was a major theme of the demonstration. Chants of "Whose NHS? Our NHS" rang out across the crowd and a lively bloc of strikers from Wigan was at the head of the march.

Jack, a striking Unison union member, told Socialist Worker, "We're here to show that we're not going to give up the fight."

"We had 49 come down on the coach, but we've still got a picket line up in Wigan to keep everything strong."

Jean came as part of a delegation from Keep Our NHS Public

Amerit from north London



Jeremy Corbyn pledged to reverse some NHS privatisation PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Greenwich in south east London. "They are trying to privatise the NHS by stealth," she said.

There were loud cheers at the final rally in Whitehall when shadow health secretary Jonathan Ashworth pledged that a Labour government would repeal privatisation. He also thanked "those that come across the world to work in the NHS".

Many people who joined the demonstration look to a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government to stop the Tories' assault on the NHS.

Determination

Corbyn told demonstrators to have the "absolute determination that we will go to the end of the earth and beyond to defend our NHS".

Some protesters argued it was also important to fight now and not wait four years for a general election.

Keith Strangwood, chair of the Save Our Horton hospital campaign, told Socialist Worker, "All politicians have been part of privatisation".

A bigger push from the union leaderships—including more strikes like that in Wigan—could repel the Tories' attacks.

Amerit, a Unison union member from north London said, "We need to keep up the pressure on the government."

"There has not been enough of it if you think about the whole situation with the Grenfell Tower fire and the Windrush scandal."



WIGAN STRIKERS joined the NHS at 70 march last Saturday

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Wigan hospital workers call fresh week-long strike over privatisation

HUNDREDS OF hospital workers across Wigan are set to strike for seven days from Tuesday 17 July.

The escalation follows a five-day strike by the Unison and Unite union members at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh (WWL) NHS Trust from last Thursday to Monday.

The trust board had voted through the plans the day before it began.

Tony is a Unison member at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, one of the five hospitals. "People were fuming," he told Socialist Worker. "It's like they had already made the decision."

"At the end of the board meeting people shouted, 'Shame'."

The initial shock has spurred workers to push back against bosses' plans. Tony said, "People were worried about carrying on after we heard about the decision last night, but we are now more determined than ever."

"Chief executive Andrew Foster's arrogance has brought us all together."

Unite members also struck last Wednesday—and some Unison members came out during their

SOLIDARITY

● Send messages of support to l.devonport@unison.co.uk

● Make cheques out to WWL Unison Welfare and send to Unison Office, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan Lane, Wigan WN1 2NN

● Donate to the strike fund at bit.ly/DonateWigan

breaks to show support.

Bosses want to outsource porters, cleaners and other support staff to wholly-owned subsidiary WWL Solutions Ltd by 1 August.

While the trust would be the sole shareholder—for the immediate future—the plan is a bridgehead to full-blown privatisation. Unison member Brenda said, "I've been here for 33 years and retire next year, so it doesn't affect me."

"But if they can do it to us, who's next? It's another step towards paying for your healthcare."

Solidarity has poured in to the strike from other Unison branches, other unions and

Labour Party members. Unison general secretary Dave Prentis joined the picket lines last Thursday. "I have come up from London to show my solidarity with our members," he said.

Transfer

"We have now no alternative but to take major industrial action until we can get the board round the table again, defer the transfer and work something out which will improve services for the communities of Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh."

Workers are determined to fully stop outsourcing.

Tony said, "If we get the funding, I think the next thing is an indefinite strike."

The Unison leadership must throw its full weight behind the dispute.

Workers should not be forced to accept anything less than staying within the NHS with no detriment to jobs, pay and terms and conditions.

A win in Wigan can begin to push back the Tories' privatisation drive in the NHS.

Longer online at bit.ly/Wigarrn Workers' names have been changed.

O'Grady joins the calls to defend migrant workers

FIGHTING THE Tories' racist scapegoating of migrant workers was an important part of the NHS at 70 demonstration last Saturday.

Nurse Andy was leading chants on a lively Migrants Make Our NHS bloc organised by Stand Up To Racism (SUTR).

"The Tories are trying to divide us and stop us fighting for the NHS," he told Socialist Worker.

"We have to show people that the NHS wouldn't work without migrants."

"We also have to organise on every ward and in GP surgeries to give confidence to workers to refuse to implement passport checks in the NHS."

"The NHS should be free for everyone."

The Tories are trying to use the racist lie of "health tourism" to claim migrants are a drain on resources.

At the rally TUC



Frances O'Grady joined calls against racist scapegoating

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

union federation general secretary Frances O'Grady said, "Don't let any of those poisonous politicians who want to scapegoat migrant workers divide us."

"We are united." Defending the health service requires more struggle by the unions—and a systematic battle against racism.

Weyman Bennett from SUTR told the rally, "Theresa May

is responsible for building a hostile environment for migrants."

"We will defend the NHS from the hostile environment."

He added, "We would like you to come here on Friday 13 July to send a message to Donald Trump that he's not welcome. And we want you to come out on Saturday 14 July against Tommy Robinson's supporters."

Conference rejects racism

DELEGATES to the BMA doctors' organisation's conference pledged to resist the Islamophobic "Prevent" strategy last week.

A motion said it "leads to racial profiling" and called on the "BMA to support all members who refuse to take part in the Prevent programme".

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act legally forces public sector workers—such as health workers and teachers—to spy for signs of "radicalisation".

The majority of referrals under Prevent are Muslim.



The BMA conference backed Saturday's demo

Jackie Applebee Turner from east London said, "The main focus is clearly on Islamic extremism and this builds a climate of fear and mistrust."

"It feeds Islamophobia and leads to racial profiling. "Home Office data

shows that Muslims are 40 times more likely to be referred than someone who is not Muslim."

She added, "Prevent feeds Theresa May's hostile environment which emboldens racists and provides fertile ground for their organisations to grow."

Ambulance strike over pay

AMBULANCE workers across the North West of England struck for six hours over pay last Friday.

It was the second walkout by the GMB union members as part of a long-running

dispute over job evaluation.

They previously struck in June for the first two hours of each shift over the course of a day.

North Western Ambulance Service

bosses have dragged their feet over a job re-evaluation process.

The GMB said paramedics working for NWS have been waiting for the outcome for 12 years.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

DARKNESS AT THE HEART OF THE BRITISH STATE

REVELATIONS that the British state is complicit in torture (see page 2) destroy the lie that Britain is more "civilised" or progressive than other countries.

Two reports last week said that British intelligence agencies MI6 and MI5 have been involved in hundreds of torture cases.

They also had a hand in dozens of rendition cases, where suspects are removed to other countries to be tortured.

The mainstream media quickly moved on from the scandal.

Former Labour home secretary Jack Straw ridiculed anyone who raised it while he was in office.

"Unless we all start to believe in conspiracy theories and that the officials are lying, there is simply no truth in the claims that the United Kingdom has been involved in rendition," he said.

But Britain has been involved in torture and rendition. And the officials do lie.

Straw was referring to the case of Abdel Hakim Belhaj and Sami al-Saadi. The two leaders of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group were rendered to Tripoli in 2004, with the assistance of British

security services, to be tortured. Theresa May was this year forced to apologise to Belhaj and his wife, who was also kidnapped.

The cases uncovered last week and in other official reports are the tip of the iceberg. The British state has long used torture against those who challenge its power.

It is sanctioned at the highest levels of the military and political establishment.

The aim isn't to get information from "dangerous" people, or to keep us safe. It's to protect the power of those at the top.

An official British investigation in 1971 found that the British army's torture techniques "played an important part in counter-

insurgency operations in Palestine, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus and the British Cameroons (1960-1), Brunei (1963), British Guiana (1964), Aden (1964-7), Borneo/Malaysia (1965-6), the Persian Gulf (1970-1) and in Northern Ireland (1971)."

British forces used beatings, sleep deprivation, sexual humiliation, hooding and white noise in order to repress people and stamp out resistance. They have continued ever since.

In September 2003 British soldiers arrested ten hotel workers in Iraq and spent days systematically torturing them. One worker, Baha Mousa, later died from his injuries.

A public inquiry into Baha's death found that British soldiers inflicted "violent and cowardly" assaults on Iraqis.

Torture is a necessary tool of imperialism, a system driven by competition between the major powers. It comes from the need to repress resistance with force and fear.

Politicians may spend a day wringing their hands whenever some of it is exposed. But the only way to end torture is to get rid of the system that relies on it.

The British state has long used torture against those who challenge it

NO PRIDE IN CAPITALISM

ALOT has changed since the first Pride march in London in 1972.

Cops hurled abuse at the 2,000 marchers and beat some up. Gay and lesbian people faced losing their jobs if they came out.

This Saturday tens of thousands will be out on London Pride. And the Metropolitan Police will be there—but this time waving LGBT+ Rainbow flags.

Multinational corporations will head up the march to show how they celebrate diversity. These

changes show how much progress we've made—and how capitalism has tried to adopt the language of liberation.

Marriage and sex for procreation aren't the only acceptable norm anymore.

But we're still presented with a narrow view of sexuality—and the reality of working class life makes it hard to have satisfying sexual relationships.

Fundamentally this is because capitalism turns everything into a commodity. Our sexuality is

alienated from us. We're told that all our needs can be met by buying the latest products, but sexual needs cannot be satisfied like this.

While sex is an important part of sexuality, it's about a much bigger range of human relationships. To have fulfilling relations means seeing the other person as a subject—not an object of our desires.

Class society gives rise to oppression and distorts sexuality—it must be uprooted.

SOCIALIST

REVIEW

WHY DOES CAPITALISM NEED BORDERS?

Phil Marfleet on the contradictions behind Trump's immigration policy

Plus

Nora Berneis on confronting the far-right in Germany

Héctor Puente Sierra on the problems for the Spanish state

Rena Niamh Smith on the revolutionary legacy of Frida Kahlo

Order copies or subscribe: socialistreview.org.uk | 020 7840 5630

SOCIALIST

WHY DOES CAPITALISM NEED BORDERS?

JULY/AUGUST ISSUE OUT NOW £3

ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



Why EU cannot heal its national divisions

APPARENTLY JEREMY Corbyn is under growing pressure from within the Labour Party to support a second referendum on Brexit. This comes not just from the Tony Blair fan club on the Labour right but also from within Corbyn's own grassroots support movement Momentum.

It's astonishing that these enthusiasts for the European Union seem to ignore what it is actually doing. The most obvious example is provided by the two summits held over the past fortnight. Both were dominated by the "migration crisis". German chancellor Angela Merkel had the gall to claim last week that this issue could "decide the EU's fate". What she meant was that she might lose her job.

There is no "migration crisis". Net immigration to the EU, which includes refugees, is fluctuating at around 0.4-0.5 percent of the total EU population—an ageing population that would shrink without immigration. It's true that widespread misery, caused especially by the war in Syria, pushed many refugees across the Mediterranean in 2015. But according to the European Council, the number of undocumented immigrants has fallen by 96 percent from its peak in October 2015.

This isn't because the misery is diminishing. Thousands of desperate people still die in the Mediterranean every summer. But the numbers crossing have been cut by the deal that Merkel struck with Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The EU loves to denounce Erdogan as an "authoritarian". But it pays his government handsomely to keep as many Syrian refugees as possible bottled up in Turkey.

The drop in numbers, however caused, doesn't really enter into the debate in Europe about migration. This is driven by the far right, which has won votes by campaigning against migrants on the basis of racist fantasies.

Reversed

Two countries are crucial here—Germany and Italy. Germany is the country where many migrants want to go because of its booming economy. Merkel had a brief moment of courage in September 2015 when she opened Germany's borders. Around a million refugees entered Germany that year.

This poorly implemented and rapidly reversed policy was used by the far right Alternative for Germany (AfD), which has fascists in its ranks, to win third place in the German parliament last September. This in turn terrified Merkel's conservative political base and in particular the right wing Catholic Christian Social Union (CSU) in Bavaria.

The CSU fears it will lose more votes to the AfD in the Bavarian state elections in October and so has moved even further right. Its leader, Horst Seehofer, runs the German equivalent of the Home Office.

He is threatening to turn asylum seekers back at Germany's borders. Merkel argues border controls would destroy the Schengen free movement area within the EU.

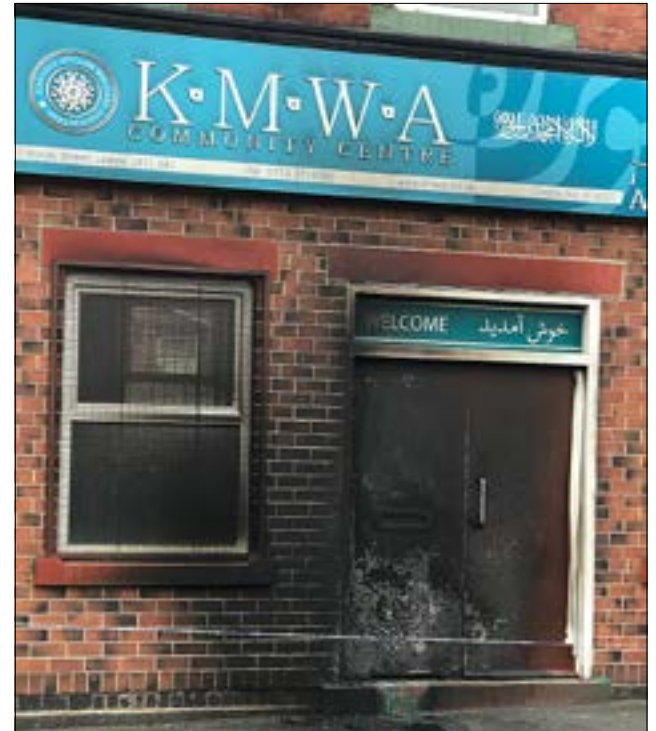
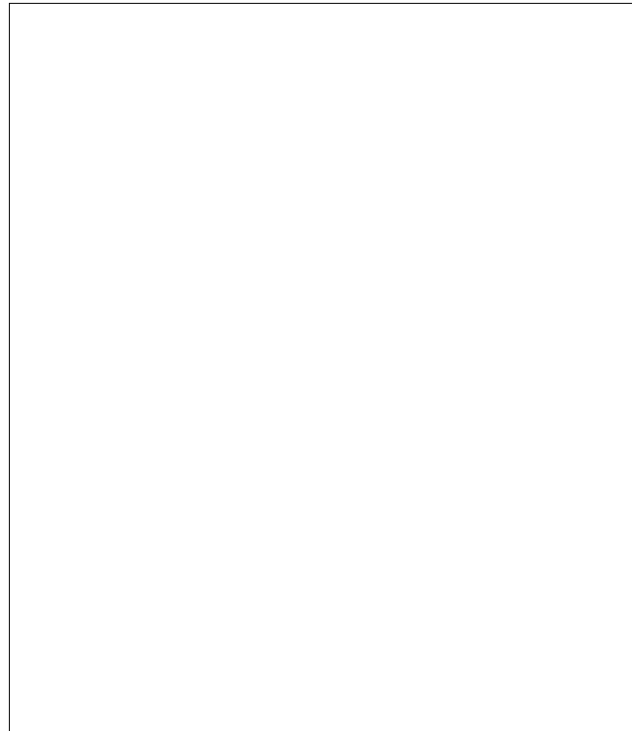
She is trying to make bilateral deals with other EU governments to share the refugee "burden". But her efforts are being spurned by the new right whose hold is growing across Europe. Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz, who heads a government that includes fascists, leads a bloc of central and eastern European states that refuses to accept any refugees.

Italy is also crucial for two reasons. First, it's the main EU member state where migrants and refugees first arrive from the other side of the Mediterranean. Secondly, its government is dominated by interior minister Matteo Salvini, leader of the far right Lega, whose anti-migrant rhetoric is leading to escalating racist attacks.

The new EU plan is to create "regional disembarkation platforms"—detention camps for refugees and migrants—in north Africa. Libya, dominated by rival armed militias, and notorious for the most brutal forms of trafficking, is a candidate. The European Council endorsed a sinister proposal from Italy telling NGOs to leave the Libyan coastguard to "rescue" refugee boats.

So, contrary to that talk of the EU transcending national conflicts, the migration issue exposes it as driven by them. And it is the far right that is increasingly making the running. Labour left wingers shouldn't demand that Corbyn link arms with the scum who run the EU. They should be encouraging him to campaign against the racism and Islamophobia that is spreading here in Britain as well.

Last time Tommy Robinson's fans marched in Leeds...



JUST DAYS after racist Robinson was jailed in Leeds last month, a mosque and a gurdwara in the city were attacked

'We won't let fascists go on rampage in our city centre'

by SADIE ROBINSON

TRADE UNION leaders, Labour Party branches and others are backing a protest against the fascist English Defence League (EDL) in Leeds on Saturday.

The anti-racist protest is organised by Leeds Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) and Leeds Unite Against Fascism.

Christian from Leeds SUTR told Socialist Worker there has been "a definite shift" in the amount of support for the protest. "Previously individual Labour Party members would have supported similar protests," he said.

"But now it is being discussed at branch level. Seven out of eight constituency Labour Party branches in Leeds have discussed the protest.

"And the Unite union has emailed around 44,000 members across Yorkshire and the Humber to encourage people to join it."

The EDL protest is in support of Nazi Tommy Robinson, the founder of the EDL, who was jailed after filming outside a child sexual exploitation trial in Leeds in May.

Suffered

Around 400 racists and fascists marched through Leeds chanting, "Muslims off our streets" early last month.

Just four days later, a mosque and a Sikh gurdwara in the south of the city suffered arson attacks.

Christian said, "People were horrified by what's happened in Leeds. And the big fascist protest in London on 9 June was a wake up call too. These things have

convinced people that they need to come together.

"More people realise that you can't just ignore this and hope it will go away."

Yorkshire and Humber TUC is backing the anti-racist protest, as well as several regional unions including the UCU, PCS, GMB, Unite, Unison, NEU and NASUWT.

A statement by Leeds SUTR said the atmosphere created by the far right and Robinson supporters is "toxic".

"Whenever fascists march and mobilise, violence and racism follow in their wake," it said. "We recognise the threat of this resurgent racist and fascist movement on the streets.

"We can't let racists and fascists march through our city without facing mass opposition from the anti-racist majority."

The statement is signed by

Richard Burgon, a Leeds MP and shadow secretary of state for justice, and many union leaders including GMB general secretary Tim Roache.

Ikram Butt of the British Asian Rugby Association has also signed along with playwright Leon Fleming.

Christian said, "We're hoping to have artists performing on the day of the protest. And people are coming from across the region to join it—it's being seen as a Yorkshire-wide demonstration."

A big protest in Leeds can give confidence to Muslims and anti-racists—and force the fascists onto the back foot.

Celebrate and defend multicultural Leeds

Saturday 7 July, 12.30pm, Leeds Town Hall, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 3AA. Go to standuptoracism.wordpress.com for details

THE LATEST ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM JOURNAL IS OUT NOW

OUT OF CONTROL?

Youth crime, class and capitalism
Jo Cardwell, Claire Dissington and Brian Richardson

PLUS
MIDDLE EAST,
FIGHTING THE
FASCIST RIGHT,
PRAGUE SPRING '68,
UNIVERSITY STRIKES



To order Phone 020 7840 5640 email isj@swp.org.uk or www.isj.org.uk

Tories are in open war—MP warns of big split

Theresa May is caught between big business's fury and 'blackmailing' Brexiters, writes **Charlie Kimber**

THERESA MAY faced another potential crisis this week as she tried to paper over Tory divisions about Brexit.

The clock is ticking and at some point May will have to face down some section of her party. The present strategy of avoiding a decision cannot be maintained indefinitely.

The Financial Times newspaper, the voice of big business, is angry and gloomy.

It wrote last weekend, "If the government wishes to secure a withdrawal deal with the EU, it will have to change its approach."

"The current strategy of delay and obfuscation has failed."

When giant corporations Airbus and BMW recently criticised the Tories' approach, foreign secretary Boris Johnson replied at a private event, "Fuck business."

Yet "business" and its profits are the main concern of the Tory party.

Senior government ministers were set to meet at Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat, on Friday.

May has said the government will then publish a White Paper setting out "in more detail what strong partnership the United Kingdom wants to see with the European Union in the future".

But what that means is highly contested. Not only do the Tories have to persuade the European Union (EU) to do a deal, they have to agree what they want themselves.

Shadow

The immediate issue is what customs arrangements there should be after Brexit. One side wants to effectively shadow the present arrangements—but that means accepting most of the present EU rules.

The other side wants to break from those rules. But that means customs checks that will inconvenience bosses and could mean a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

May apparently has a new and cunning plan. But nobody knows if it will work.

Last Saturday, it was revealed

BACK STORY

Splits in the Tory party over Brexit are coming to a head

- Theresa May has to satisfy big business bosses who want Britain's relationship with the EU to stay the same

- But a group of Tory MPs want to break from the EU's rules

- May only narrowly avoided a rebellion in parliament last month

- Now time is running out—and the crisis could cause the Tories to dump May

that environment secretary Michael Gove physically ripped up a report on May's previously preferred option. He was said to have been "livid" because he felt the government document downplayed his objections to the proposal.

Nobody now bothers to pretend there's unity among the Tories. Tory backbencher Jacob Rees-Mogg was accused by other MPs of trying to "blackmail" May after writing in the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

He said that he and the Tory MPs he leads would reject a deal that did not lead to a clean break with the EU. He added that May risked "splitting the Conservative party" if she softened her "red lines".

Foreign office minister Sir Alan Duncan retorted, "Rees-Mogg's insolence in lecturing and threatening PM is just too much. Risks debasing government, party, country and himself."

"PM must be given maximum latitude and backing."

Another Tory MP, Simon Hoare also tweeted against Rees-Mogg—"The hectoring nonsense/blackmail has to stop and the reality of parliamentary arithmetic and the calamity of a Corbyn government woken up to."

With the Tories in disarray it's time to increase the resistance to them and to demand a Brexit that looks after workers, not bosses.

THERESA MAY treads a narrow path over leaving the EU

Unite members debate Brexit, racism and defending migrants at conference

by **SARAH BATES** in Brighton

DELEGATES AT the Unite union conference in Brighton this week debated Brexit, jobs, the Labour Party and racism.

Opening the conference general secretary Len McCluskey said "the elite in this country has cause to be worried".

McCluskey told the conference that Unite's "capacity to conduct industrial action is still the most important thing". Yet he also said the union had "developed new ways to win"—such as legal action.

"One is exploiting other opportunities of the law, and legal action is now more closely integrated with industrial action than it's ever been," he said.

Highlighted

McCluskey highlighted the Birmingham bins dispute that raged last year, and implied that it was legal action—rather than strikes—that won the dispute.

Some of the most contentious arguments were over Brexit. They reflected the confusion among the left and trade unionists.

Unite's executive council put forward a motion on Brexit, which

affirmed the union's position on "protecting jobs, defending employment rights, and opposing the racist backlash that the referendum campaign unleashed."

Delegates were set to vote on the motion as Socialist Worker went to press.

Many delegates were concerned that Brexit would fundamentally change who was able to live and work in Britain.

Bus driver Joanne Harris said, "You can go into any London bus garage and you'll see the most diverse group of people."

"Many of our workers are concerned for the future."

But Joanne also said, "We do oppose free movement of workers across Europe, because it means unscrupulous bosses can go to a country where labour is cheap."

McCluskey echoed this. "The free movement of labour has squeezed terms and conditions," he said. But he also said Unite "rejects out of hand any excuse to scapegoat migrants".

It's good when trade unionists want to defend migrants. But this has to include rejecting the false argument that migration lowers wages. Union leaders should back

a Brexit plan that defends free movement.

Labour

Hopes for a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government ran through the debates. TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said of a Corbyn government, "We must work for it, but we can't wait for it."

"It's up to us to offer an alternative, no individual and no union is going it alone," she said.

And she echoed other's fears about the rise of the racism when she spoke about "thugs like Tommy Robinson".

Speaking on a motion about the rise of the Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA) and far right, construction worker Pete Shaw said, "They're trying to take hold of the streets and build a street army."

He urged people to join protests against them.



A victory for the left in Mexico's election

Presidential elections have upset the rich—but it isn't clear what changes will follow, says **Alistair Farrow**

ANDRES MANUEL Lopez Obrador has swept to victory in the Mexican presidential elections.

The left winger's win has devastated the bosses' Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). He took 53.7 percent of the vote.

His Movement for National Reconstruction party has also won other key electoral contests, including the mayoralty of the capital, Mexico City.

The result is all the more remarkable given the forces standing against Lopez Obrador and his allies. The election campaign was marked by violence, with candidates being gunned down.

The elections saw 138 candidates killed across Mexico. And polling day added Flora Resendiz Gonzalez, an activist for the Workers Party (PT), to the list after she was assassinated in her home.

Bosses also sent letters to workers warning of job losses if Lopez Obrador won.

Corruption

He campaigned on a platform of redistributing wealth and ending corruption.

And his opponents made it easy. The PRI has been embroiled in corruption scandals for years. PT candidates won 75 seats in the parliament—almost double the PRI's 47.

Some 89 million people were eligible to vote—and 13 million of these for the first time.

Lopez Obrador is thought to have benefited particularly from this influx of young new voters.

Now the fight is on to see what Lopez Obrador's promise of change means and if he can live up to the hopes of those who voted for him.

"I have supported him for so long because I believe in him, because the government we have is rotten," said voter Maria del Carmen Munoz.

She also supported Lopez Obrador during his previous two presidential bids.

Others were more guarded in their enthusiasm. "He won't resolve

BACK STORY

Left wing Lopez Obrador is the new president of Mexico

● The election campaign was marked by violence with 138 candidates killed across Mexico

● Lopez Obrador campaigned on a platform of ending corruption and redistributing wealth

● His win has led to panic among the bosses' parties—but he's also been careful to reassure them

● Now the fight is on to see what his promise of change means—and if he can deliver his pledges

everything like he promises," said civil servant Evelyn Correa. "But we've tried the other parties. Hopefully he's different."

Lopez Obrador has been careful to assuage the fears of both Mexican bosses and the US foreign policy hawks. He has attacked cartels and corruption while appealing to bosses to rediscover their morality and social consciences.

Donald Trump tweeted his congratulations to Lopez Obrador, "Congratulations to Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on becoming the next President of Mexico. I look very much forward to working with him. 'There is much to be done that will benefit both the United States and Mexico!'"

Lopez Obrador shied away from confronting Trump in his victory speech. Instead he said Mexico's relationship with the US would now be "rooted in mutual respect and in defence of our migrant countrymen who work and live honestly in that country".

The "honestly" is important.

It could indicate an agreement with the White House over its savage treatment of undocumented migrants.



On other pages...

Demonstrations take on Trump's racism >>Page 20

SUPPORTERS OF Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador celebrate his victory in Mexico's presidential election

West aims to co-opt Iranian protests

by NICK CLARK

FRESH PROTESTS have erupted in Iran over a lack of drinkable water and the plunging value of the currency.

Iranian security forces attacked protesters in the city of Khorramshahr over the weekend. Iranians in the south west province Khuzestan have been faced with contaminated tap water for several months.

The protests followed demonstrations in Iranian capital Tehran earlier in the week, sparked by the falling value of the Rial.

Economic crisis and pro-market policies have sparked

a wave of strikes and protests.

The US and Israel have painted the protests as pro-West. Yet recently-applied sanctions enforced by the US have made life for ordinary people worse.

Israeli newspaper Haaretz said that senior US and Israeli officials want to use the protests to topple Iran's government. They hope to replace it with a regime friendly to the West.

Yet Western-backed regimes across the Middle East have also pioneered the same pro-market policies. And the US and Israel's support has allowed the Iranian government to paint the protests as a Western conspiracy.

Western governments are no friends of ordinary Iranians.

Protesters in Iran last month

FIGURE IT OUT

5 million Syrians have sought refuge abroad since 2011, according to Human Rights Watch

6 million Syrians were made "internally displaced" over the same time period

22 million is the pre-war population of Syria—meaning that half have been displaced by the war

THOUSANDS of people have fled after the Syrian regime and Russian forces launched a fresh assault on rebel-held Daraa in south west Syria.

At least 50,000 people have been made "internally displaced" since the assault began last month.

Thousands are trapped at the borders

of British allies Jordan and Israel.

An Israeli military statement said, "We will not allow passage of Syrians fleeing the country."

Israel has also bolstered its military forces in the occupied Golan Heights, which is close to the fighting.

It has sporadically bombed Syria and occasionally

threatened war against regime-backed forces close to its border.

And airstrikes by a British-backed coalition—which is also fighting in Syria—continue.

The coalition last week admitted to killing 40 civilians in a strike on a school in March 2017.

The United Nations said 150 civilians were actually killed.

Israel has machines of death

THE ISRAELI government and the media are trying to persuade the world that Israel faces a new threat—from kites and balloons.

These are “weapons that are designed to kill,” according to an Israeli military spokesperson.

In fact they are a desperate—and innovative—response to the gross imbalance between the murderous Israeli state and those whom it oppresses.

Israel has all the latest and most sophisticated technology of death. Palestinians have slingshots.

The “threat” of kites is being used to develop further the Israeli killing machine. Dozens of Israeli firms joined a Paris arms fair earlier this month.

One Israeli website claimed that a new drone on display had been developed “to counter the threat posed by incendiary kites.”

Yet weeks earlier it had stated that the drone had been “designed for urban area warfare,” in which the “enemy is behind cover”.

Also at this arms fair were the rifles used during Israel’s recent massacres in Gaza.

Amnesty International has identified the Tavor, manufactured by Israel Weapon Industries, as likely to have been one of the main guns fired by Israeli snipers attacking Palestinian demonstrators.

This demonstration of murderous power is obviously thought to be a selling point.

Peter Brosman
Birmingham



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Saddleworth Moor shows danger of fire service cuts

I LIVE in Mossley, near the Saddleworth Moor fire that raged for almost a week.

The fire made it look like a storm was brewing.

The smoke was so thick it blocked out the sun. We have had to close the windows and tape up the vents in the bathroom.

By the third day, we couldn’t see anything except smoke. Everything around us was yellow, and it smelled like wood burning.

It was really acrid and made me gag. Everyone’s been really poorly with upset stomachs, dry eyes and a dry feeling at the back of the throat.

At one point, the fire spread through peat and ignited near

us—there were no firefighters. The fire station was at risk of closure a year and a half ago.

Most of the permanent staff were moved to a different station so the majority of firefighters are volunteers. They’ve been working 16-hour shifts and parts of the moor they have to climb are nearly vertical.

It took days to get reinforcements from the army.

People have been giving Manchester mayor Andy Burnham a lot of stick for not getting more support in sooner—but ultimately it’s the Tory government that is responsible.

Bethany Leese
Greater Manchester

THE FIRES on Saddleworth Moor are not just the result of an unusually hot and dry June.

They reflect human actions. And we are seeing the effect of cuts in the fire service.

What might be able to—just—cover “normal” times becomes stretched beyond breaking point when the unusual occurs.

And environmental campaigner Guy Shrubsole points out the fire sites on the moor correlate closely with places managed for driven grouse shooting—rich people shooting at birds.

This “management” dries out the moor. The rich get us in every way.

Lorna Standing
Manchester

We need to obliterate sexism in World Cup

EVERY FOUR years the World Cup is heralded as bringing nations and people together. But despite these feelings of unity women are benched.

It seems as though football is a man’s world with no place for female supporters, but this is not the case. There are plenty of women football fans who are equally as invested in this spirited competition.

However, they are often objectified. Or they suffer harsher scrutiny, such as women pundits being

patronised. The media would have you believe that no women are interested in football at all. And women’s football is hardly ever shown on TV or covered in the newspapers.

And the representation of women football fans is sexist. This will alienate some football fans and foster a sexist environment.

Football should be a universal sport and it only seems right to stamp out sexism in the World Cup.

Francesca Yepes-Walsh
South London

Will UN tell the truth about austerity?

THE UNITED Nations is launching an investigation into poverty and human rights in Britain.

Apparently it’s going to look at the impact of the Tories’ brutal austerity policies.

My guess is that it will be discovering that ordinary people have suffered a lot.

After all, when the UN’s special rapporteur on extreme poverty went recently to the US he found the Trump administration’s attitude to the poor was driving “cruel policies”. It will be



Plenty of evidence of harm

a similar story here with the weight of evidence of rising poverty, shattered public services and young people denied a proper future.

I welcome any such condemnations from the

UN or anyone else. But will anything change?

It didn’t when the UN last year found the British government was failing to uphold disabled people’s rights.

This was across a range of areas from education, work and housing to health, transport and social security.

Harsh words, but the war on disabled people continues.

Information is useful but it has to be turned into activity.

Sue Lee
West London

Anti-racist? Be anti-Brexit

LEFT SUPPORT for Brexit is a mistake.

The EU is a bosses’ club, but that’s not why racists hate it. Most anti-racists oppose Brexit and we should unite with them.

@lilybright2010
via Twitter

Get it right on Grenfell fire

FIREFIGHTERS ARE not to blame for Grenfell. True.

Individual firefighters did not fail to rescue people because they are racist. True.

Institutional racism was a big factor in Grenfell. True.

It’s important to recognise all of these.
Lorraine Peters
via Facebook

How can we win Indyref2?

IT’S GOOD to read that there are large demonstrations in favour of Scottish independence (Socialist Worker, 27 June)

But I can’t see Theresa May agreeing to hold a second referendum on independence, even if the Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon can be pushed to call for one.

There will have to be very militant tactics to force the government’s hand.

Will the Scottish National Party lead them?

I very much doubt it. Instead they will seek to use the mood just to grab more votes.

Margaret Hill
Glasgow

MPs on the wrong flight

IT DOESN’T surprise me to see Tory MPs voting for a third runway at Heathrow airport.

But it’s gut wrenching to see some Labour MPs who campaigned at the last general election on a “for the many not the few” platform siding with big business against the local community.

It also displays the extent to which a handful of trade union leaders have got MPs over a barrel, and their lack of concern at pollution, noise levels and climate change.

John Appleyard
Liversedge, West Yorkshire

RAKHIA ISMAIL

Labour councillor
in Islington, London

WE NEED to make a clear statement that we are utterly against Tommy Robinson and his cronies.

Fascism is growing drastically across Europe. We can't take it lying down. We need to show them that we're standing up to them.

They're creating divisions in Britain and blaming Muslims in particular, as well as black people and ethnic minorities.

The far right were nothing to be worried about before. But I was there opposing the "Free Tommy" rally on 9 June. That was an eye-opener for me.

Since Donald Trump came to power, they've been inspired and have this extra energy.

Steve Bannon, who used to work for Trump, is sending personal messages to the far right here and may even be financing them.

These are issues that are very concerning. We're not going to keep quiet.

They have to see that there are many British people who are standing up to Trump, Robinson and their rhetoric. We are more than them—they are few.

As a Muslim woman and a parent I want to make it very clear that the majority of British and non-British Muslims stand up to racism, and we are going to defy them in numbers.

I was at an Eid party, more than 100 Somali and Muslim women were there.

My message to them was simple—the more we stay inside and get scared, the worse it will get, the more likely it is that the fascists will come to us in our homes.

People have to come out in numbers. We have neighbours who are non-Muslims and who are British. We talk to them—they're very respectful of our faith. Plenty of people supporting Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) are non-Muslim themselves—so there's no reason to be scared.

There are lots of Muslim sisters who are signing the SUTR petition, and hopefully will be coming out on that day. It's about encouraging people and making them understand they have to defend their rights.

AMIRA TAHA

Salford City Unison
union black members'
officer

IT'S ESSENTIAL for everyone who is against racism to be on the streets both on the 13 and 14 July.

What's happening in the world is terrible. Everything we never thought could happen is happening—just look at the children locked in cages by Trump. Or people in some countries such as Malta celebrating when refugees drown.

People from our class face injustice. We're the ones who suffer most from the government's policies.

There are plenty of people who oppose racism but aren't yet out on the streets.

This is a problem—I've been on



Haringey Labour councillors joined protests against the National Front in 1977 (top). Now 28 Labour councillors, including Khaled Moyeed (middle) in the north London borough, have signed a statement calling for protests against Tommy Robinson's supporters—as has Rakhia Ismail, a Labour councillor in neighbouring Islington (above)



Let's rip off Robinson's 'respectable' mask

demos when there were too few of us and the far right have been vicious and violent. But when our numbers are bigger, we manage to stop them. The bigger they are, the more they grow, because they feel as if they can crush everybody.

If you're not a Muslim and think you're safe—you're not. Refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, Jews—no one is safe. Even if you're white, if you're against the far right's politics you're not safe.

So this is our opportunity to unite.

This is not the time to ignore them. It only feeds them when we ignore them because they think they're stronger.

This is an opportunity to be on the streets in big numbers—because we are the many.

I've had enough of the few winning all the time.

KHALED MOYEEED

Labour councillor in
Haringey, London

TWENTY EIGHT Labour councillors in Haringey have signed the statement calling for people to join the protests on the 13 and 14 July.

It's really important for councillors to do this because they're connected to the communities in their wards. If they sign the statement then the likelihood is that a lot more people will know about it.

In Haringey we've also released a press release, and we'll also be organising stalls leading up to the protest to build momentum.

It's really important to attend because we saw all the different splinter groups came together when the far right had their last march.

They demanded the release of Tommy Robinson—and were openly giving Nazi salutes in central London. Their language has been openly that of fascists.

We haven't seen anything like this in such numbers for a very long time. Even Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts didn't succeed in getting that many.

But we should remember that the Blackshirts were successfully resisted.

We've also got history in Haringey. We had the Battle of Wood Green in 1977 when we—including councillors—stood up to the National Front.

We're continuing in that tradition.

It's important to do that—not just to stand in solidarity with the people who want to resist on the street—but also because we have to demoralise the fascists and let them know there are more of us than them.

We have to tell them that these are our streets and they have no place here. The fascists want to



IT'S TIME TO MAKE A STAND AGAINST FASCISM

Support is growing for Stand Up To Racism's open letter calling for people to take to the streets against Donald Trump on 13 July and Nazi Tommy Robinson's supporters on 14 July. Activists spoke to Nick Clark about why they're building for the protests

sow division and hatred. Haringey is a very diverse and multicultural borough. People coexist peacefully. We can't allow something like this to create division and fear.

JANE LOFTUS

Vice president
CWU union

THE WORLD is at a crossroads.

Across Europe and Britain the far right are exploiting the crisis caused by governments' failure to provide for the many not the few.

Trump's visit should never have been agreed. His soundbites are offensive to all—and encourage the fascists to march.

They need to be challenged.

I—along with my union—pledge to fight racism and fascism by demonstrating on 13 and 14 July, destroying the lies, and uniting in our communities.

PADDY DE CLEIR

President, Islington
NEU union

THE FAR right and the Football Lads Alliance represent the worst in society—and they're pretty dangerous as well.

I'm going because not enough of us demonstrated against them previously.

It was pretty scary, but I was really impressed with the people who protested against them. The Muslim women were out in force, shouting and chanting and showing no fear.

These women were very brave in the face of that. If they can do it, we all can do it.

Racism and fascism is about trying to divide people. When racists and fascists are stronger, it's a threat to us.

Trade unions are about standing together—if we don't stand together then we fall apart.

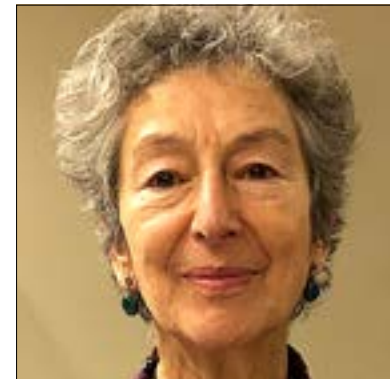
Trade unions are under attack. It makes it harder to organise, stand together, and represent each other and our values which are the best of society.

Working class people are disenfranchised.

People are pissed off, but people like Tommy Robinson want to channel that anger in the wrong direction.

They looked powerful. But if they see mass mobilisations against them we can make them realise they don't own the streets anymore.

We've seen it before when street movements can evolve into something big and dangerous. Let's not let that happen this time.

**NAOMI WIMBORNE-IDRISSI**

Officer, Jewish Voice
for Labour

WE OFFER support to the Muslim community, the main group singled out for attack. And we stand with all those targeted by the far right—people of colour, migrants, LGBTQI people, Jews, trade unionists and human rights defenders.

We condemn absolutely the violent marchers and their leaders, and believe that united action against this despicable rabble is the only way to defeat their poison.

We've released a statement calling for action against the far right. And we call on all those opposed to far right violence to unite behind counter demonstrations and other actions called by anti-fascist groups, trade unions and others.

Paddy De Cleir (left, top) **Jane Loftus** (left, middle) **Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi** (left, below)

WHAT WE THINK

**We must campaign
and stop them building**

THE FORCES of British fascism see an opportunity to rebuild their strength.

The 15,000-strong "Free Tommy" rally last month was the largest outdoor mobilisation by fascists in British history.

It brought together the Nazis, the alt right and the racists populists of Ukip. The bridge between the two is the Democratic Football Lads Alliance—which mobilised 2,500 onto the streets of London recently.

The fascists and racists have been fuelled by the racism of Donald Trump and the Tories. And taking on wider racism is important.

But fascists aim to build a mass movement that can smash their opponents and perpetrate racist violence. And as a street movement, they gain confidence by marching.

That means we have to break their confidence on the streets.

Stand Up To Racism and Unite Against Fascism have sounded the alarm—and held protests against the fascists and racists. The demonstration on 14 July is a chance to begin to broaden the movement against the far right and to give new momentum to anti-racists.

Safety on those demonstrations comes through numbers.

A big turnout on 14 July will help us get to a position where we can confront the fascists and stop them marching where they want to march, rally where they want to rally.

And that way we can push back and break their organisation.

Robinson fan boy in London last month

Unite against Tommy Robinson and the far right

**Sunday 14 July, 2pm
central London**

**Called by Stand Up to Racism and Unite Against Fascism
Backed by 17 Labour MPs and a host of national trade unions**

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

HUDDERSFIELD

'Kill all the Gentleman'
—book launch with author Martin Empson

Wed 18 Jul, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade
(near both train and
bus stations),
HD1 5JP

NORWICH

**How do we stop the
rise of racism and the
fascist far right?**

Thu 2 Aug, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss
political issues and our local
interventions. All welcome.

BARNLEY

**Marx@200—the
revolutionary ideas
of Karl Marx**

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM

**Dump Trump—
resistance in the US**

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BRADFORD

**How can we stop the rise of
the far right across Europe?**

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
Glyde House,
Little Horton Lane,
BD5 0BQ

BRIGHTON & HOVE

**Sanctions and Universal
Credit—the Tories'
war on the poor**

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL

**Abortion rights—where
next for the struggle?**

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

**How can we stop the rise of
the far right across Europe?**

Wed 18 Jul, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CHESTERFIELD

Is Marxism relevant today?

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

COLCHESTER

Is Corbynism in retreat?

Thu 26 Jul, 8pm,
Hythe Community Centre,
1 Ventura Drive,
CO1 2FG

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS

Trump, racism and the far right —how do we turn the tide?

BOLTON

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St,
BL1 1DY

CARDIFF

Wed 18 Jul, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

DONCASTER

Tue 10 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Womens Centre
(Changing Lives),
5 Princes street, DN1 3NJ

EXETER

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
The Exeter peace shop,
31 New Bridge St,
EX4 3AH

COVENTRY

**What would a Corbyn
government look like?**

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
The Golden Cross,
8 Hay Ln,
CV1 5RF

DUNDEE

**What would a Corbyn
government look like?**

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

**Trump, trade wars
and imperialism**

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,, EH1 2JL

HULL

Thu 19 Jul, 7pm,
Cafe licious,
104 Cottingham Rd,
HU6 7RZ

LIVERPOOL

Wed 18 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
22 School Ln,
Liverpool L1 3BT

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community
and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd,
SE10 8JA

GLASGOW

**Dump Trump—
resistance in the US**

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City, G1 5QT

HARLOW

**Catalonia—how can
a republic be won?**

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys, CM18 6BX

HUDDERSFIELD

**What do socialists say about
free speech and no platform?**

Wed 11 Jul, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade, HD1 5JP

LONDON: NEWHAM

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove, E15 1HP

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
Epainos Church,
Lichfield Road,
E3 5AT

NEWCASTLE

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
Brunswick Methodist Church,
Brunswick Pl,
NE1 7BJ

PLYMOUTH

Thu 19 Jul, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain,
PL4 6LF

ROTHERHAM

Wed 18 Jul, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist
Church Centre,
Moorgate St, S60 2EY

SWANSEA

Thu 19 Jul, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

TELFORD

Wed 18 Jul, 7.30pm,
Carriages,
The Parade,
Wellington, TF1 1PY

WIGAN

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
Little Fifteen pub,
17-19 Wallgate
WN1 1LD

LONDON: SOUTH

**Donald Trump, China
and trade wars**

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd,
Brixton,
SW2 1EP

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

**Clear and present danger—
climate change in the
age of Donald Trump**

Wed 11 Jul,
7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow,
E17 6QQ

LONDON: WEST

**The roots of Islamophobia
and how to fight it**

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Woodlane Community Centre,
78 White City Cl,
Shepherd's Bush,
W12 7DZ

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

**Is revolution possible
in the 21st Century?**

Wed 11 Jul, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

MEDWAY

**Labour and Brexit—
what do we say?**

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
272 High St,
ME4 4BP

NORWICH

**Marx@200—the
revolutionary ideas
of Karl Marx**

Thu 12 Jul, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

OXFORD

**Racism and resistance
in Trump's America**

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Restore Building,
Manzil Way,
OX4 1YH

POOLE AND DORCHESTER

**After the Irish referendum—
where next in the fight
for abortion rights?**

Tue 17 Jul, 7pm,
Dorford Centre,
2 Bridport Rd,
DT1 1RR

PORTSMOUTH

**After the Irish referendum—
where next in the fight
for abortion rights?**

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Somerstown
Community Centre,
River's St,
PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

**What would a Corbyn
government look like?**

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

**The rise of the far
right—what do we say
about free speech?**

Thu 12 Jul, 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St,
S1 2JB

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

**Trump, Iran and the
threat of wider war**

Wed 18 Jul, 7.30pm,
Wild Bytes Cafe,
Darlington St,
WV1 4HW

YORK

Is socialism possible?

Wed 11 Jul, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

DORCHESTER

**Britain's shameful secret—
migrant detentions**

Sat 14 Jul, 1.30pm,
Colliton Club,
Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ

CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600
Email
enquires@swp.org.uk
Post PO Box 74955,
London E16 9EJ

Socialist Worker

[For daily updates and the stories that matter:

socialistworker.co.uk]



We are on Twitter
@socialistworker



Sign up for our morning email
Breakfast in Red at
socialistworker.co.uk/subscribe



Send your reports and views to
reports@socialistworker.co.uk



Find us on Facebook
Socialist Worker (Britain)



Download **Whatsapp** to your
phone and switch notifications on.
Save **07494 519595** as Socialist
Worker WhatsApp. Send 'start'
to **07494 519595**



Phone us on
020 7840 5656

Two exhibitions question the political uses of photography

Dorothea Lange's images are about more than just the 1930s in the US, and another exhibition looks at how photos are used, writes **Josh Hollands**

POLITICS OF Seeing is the first British retrospective of renowned US photographer Dorothea Lange (1895-1965).

Lange is most well-known for her iconic image of a migrant mother looking sullen yet resolute during the 1930s. The subject is a migrant from the dust bowl that swept through the Midwest plains at the height of the Great Depression.

A series of photographs detailing Lange's encounter with the migrant mother is at the centre of the exhibition. The viewer is treated to other shots from the same series to provide an insight into the development of that image and its later uses.

The exhibition delves beyond images of dust bowl refugees to provide a comprehensive retrospective.

We are introduced to Lange through her early portraiture work. It was before she was drawn out of the studio to document demonstrations of union activists at the height of the depression and the birth of the "New Deal."

Initiative

Lange is also central to a free exhibition currently on show at the Whitechapel Gallery. *Killed Negatives* details the story of the Farm Security Administration (FSA) that launched a photographic initiative between 1935 and 1944.

The FSA hired photographers to document the struggles of rural poverty during the depression.

For Roy Stryker and other administration heads these images would provide the evidence needed to convince politicians of the need for their agency.

Intriguingly this exhibition centres on the photographic negatives that Stryker "killed." He punched holes through negatives deemed inappropriate.

Because of this black discs float over the faces of the rural poor and



CLOCKWISE FROM left: Migrant Mother, Nipomo, California, 1936. Dorothea Lange
Dreamlike: Untitled, 2011-2012. Vanessa Winship
Untitled photo (detail). Carl Mydans

those left behind in rural Ireland as their neighbours migrated to the US that caught her attention in the 1950s.

Included in the ticket price alongside Dorothea Lange is the first retrospective of British photographer, Vanessa Winship.

She continues several themes from Lange's exhibit including migration, refuge and environment.

One compelling part of the Winship collection documents the US during the 2011-2012 election as the country recovered from recession and witnessed the murder of Trayvon Martin.

Lange's images humanised her subjects and demonstrated the harsh reality of the depression in a way that the elite could not ignore.

Seeing these works in the times we are living through is revealing.

Migrants and refugees face an intensified attack from the Trump administration and from governments across Europe.

These exhibitions remind us of the political uses and abuses of photography.

As Lange states in an interview screened as part of the exhibition, her intention was "not to show how great we are, but what it is [actually] like."

Dorothea Lange: Politics of Seeing and **Vanessa Winship: And Time Folds**. A photography double bill, Barbican Centre Art Gallery, until 2 Sep, £13.50.
Killed Negatives: Unseen Images of 1930s America, Whitechapel Gallery, until 26 Aug. Free.

PLAY

THE JUNGLE

by Joe Murphy and Joe Robertson
Playhouse Theatre, London WC2N 5DE.
Until 3 November.
thejungleplay.co.uk

ANYONE WHO went on convoys to the "jungle" refugee camp in Calais will recognise the Afghan restaurant.

This is where writers Joe Murphy and Joe Robertson's play *The Jungle* takes place.

From January 2015 to October 2016 the "jungle" camp was home to up to 8,000 refugees.

It was a testament to the human capacity to work together in the very worst conditions.

But being home to so many desperate, displaced and tired people, inevitably tensions were never far from the surface.

In the play 17 year old Okot from Sudan has emotional and physical scars.



Nahel Tzegai (Helene) in an earlier production of *The Jungle*

And narrator Safi, a professor of English literature from Syria, is destined to end up wandering the streets of Leicester alone, denied the right to work.

The play poses many difficult questions. Are some of the volunteers going to Calais naive do-gooders?

Is Britain going to provide the solace denied by so many other states? Are people smugglers simply providing a service denied by nation states?

The play's writers ran the Good Chance Theatre Company in the camp.

They point the finger of blame at the creation of the European Union's Fortress Europe.

Go and see this amazing play and take others.

It will renew the urgency of the need to address the refugee crisis—and continue to boost the vital solidarity work.

Simon Shaw



KARL Marx believed that workers have the power to transform the world through revolution.

The working class, he argued, could create a new system based on meeting the needs of everyone, not making profit for a tiny few.

Marx called this system communism and later used the term socialism.

Along with his collaborator Frederick Engels, he wrote about how this new world could come about and what it might look like.

Marx was writing in the 19th century at a time when capitalism was still coming into being in many parts of the world.

He had seen how the bourgeoisie, the capitalist class, was sweeping aside the old feudal order.

For Marx “revolutions are the locomotives of history.”

They drive society forward. Marx described how revolutions happen when economic development pushes against ways of organising society that hold it back.

For instance, capitalism marked a huge advance on the feudal societies.

It revolutionised production and unleashed great potential. But while Marx saw the dynamism of capitalism, he also saw the horrors that it brought about.

Dirt

He wrote that capitalism “comes dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt”.

Marx and Engels were revolutionary socialists actively involved in organising to overthrow it.

It isn't simply that capitalism forces working class people to live in hovels, work in dangerous conditions and suffer poverty. For Marx, it also has a deeper damaging effect.

Marx wrote that humans can be told apart from animals by many things, but importantly, “They begin to distinguish themselves as soon as they begin to produce their means of subsistence.”

So people have a unique ability to labour consciously on the world around them.

But under capitalism this is controlled by the bosses for their own interests.

Marx wrote that workers are alienated because of this—from their work, from each other and themselves.

In words many people will recognise, he said the worker “does not count labour itself as part of his life; it is rather a sacrifice of his life”.

This alienation is built into the way capitalism works, and can't simply be reformed away.

Marx also argued that revolution is the only way to get rid of all the reactionary ideas that capitalism generates.



Protesters gather in Tahrir Square after the Egyptian Revolution, 2011

KARL MARX, WORKERS & REVOLUTION

Karl Marx said revolutions would be instrumental in building socialism. **Sadie Robinson** argues that workers taking mass action is still necessary to change the world



Labour makes humans different from animals

In Marx's time just as today, ruling classes used racism to try and divide workers.

When Marx was writing, racism in England was mainly directed towards Irish workers.

Marx wrote that the “antagonism” between English and Irish workers was “artificially kept alive and intensified by the press, the pulpit, the comic papers, in short by all the means at the disposal of the ruling class”.

For Marx and Engels, the



Workers have to liberate themselves, not rely on anyone else

ruling ideas in any society are “the ideas of the ruling class”. This doesn't mean they are the only ideas.

But those at the top of society are in a position to promote certain ideas—respect for the rule of law, nationalism, and so on—and these dominate.

“Revolution is necessary not only because the ruling class cannot be overthrown in any other way, but also because the class overthrowing it can only in a revolution succeed in

ridding itself of all the muck of ages and become fitted to found society anew,” they wrote.

How would this revolution come about?

It might seem that the rich, with all the power and influence they wield, can quite easily protect their system.

And much of the time, many workers don't appear very interested in overthrowing capitalism.

But Marx identified how struggle is built into the system. Capitalism is based on bosses competing with each other.

Each fights to accumulate more wealth than the rest—and those who don't compete successfully risk going to the wall.

This pushes them to constantly attack workers.

So they might try to slash pay or scrap a pension scheme to cut costs and boost their profits.

But these attacks push workers to collectively resist.

When workers do fight back, this opens up a space for their ideas about the world—and themselves—to change.

Challenges

And in times of crisis, these struggles can spill over into bigger challenges to the system.

So capitalism contains the seeds of its own destruction—it creates its own “gravedigger” as Marx and Engels put it. But a successful revolution isn't inevitable.

Marx and Engels wrote that class struggle could lead to the “common ruin of the contending classes”.

But they did not waver from arguing that only a revolution could liberate working class people.

In an address to the Communist League in 1850 they said, “Our concern cannot simply be to modify private property, but to abolish it, not to hush up class antagonisms but to abolish classes, not to improve the existing society but to found a new one.”

AND EVEN when the bourgeoisie was still a relatively new class, in some cases fighting an old feudal order, they warned against putting any trust in it.

“In all the conflicts to come, it will be the workers who will be chiefly responsible for achieving victory,” they argued.

“The petty bourgeoisie, to a man, will hesitate as long as possible and remain fearful, irresolute and inactive.”

Marx argued that workers had to liberate themselves, not rely on any other group to win change on their behalf.

“The emancipation of the working class must be the act of the working class itself,” he wrote.

A socialist society would do away with private property and put ordinary people in charge. Marx said that over

time, society would be run on the principle of “from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs”.

There would still be classes in the transition between capitalism and communism.

Workers will need to organise in order to protect the new society from a counter-revolution by the old ruling class.

Marx wrote that this transition would see the “dictatorship of the proletariat”.

And Engels wrote that a revolution is where “one part of the population imposes its will upon the other part”.

Right wingers sometimes use such quotes to paint Marx and Engels as anti-democratic or in favour of repression.

But a workers' revolution would see the vast majority imposing its will on a tiny minority.

It would protect and extend democracy against a minority determined to hold onto its power.

AS ENGELS asked, “Would the Paris Commune have lasted a single day if it had not made use of this authority of the armed people against the bourgeoisie?”

The experience of the Commune in March 1871 showed the power of workers and the potential for revolutionary change.

An uprising of workers forced the government to flee Paris and the first ever workers' government, the Commune, was set up.

It got rid of the army and police, and armed the people instead.

Marx wrote, “For the first time since the days of February 1848 [when revolution broke out in France], the streets of Paris were safe, and that without any police of any kind.”

The Commune's representatives were elected by universal suffrage—and they could be recalled. All took a workers' wage. Education was opened up to all.

“When plain working men for the first time dared to infringe upon the governmental privilege of their ‘natural superiors’ the old world writhed in convulsions of rage,” wrote Marx.

“Wonderful, indeed, was the change the Commune had wrought in Paris!”

Marx saw how the Commune



THE Paris Commune showed the power of workers (top). Striking Southampton public sector workers resisting bosses' attacks in 2011 (above)

ABOVE PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

didn't challenge the centralised capitalist state, and kept many of the old structures. After two months it was drowned in blood.

For Marx, this confirmed that workers can't just take over the “ready-made state machinery”. Instead they have to create new forms of organising.

Despite the defeat, workers had shown that they were capable of running society for themselves. Marx said the Commune “will be forever celebrated as the glorious harbinger of a new society”.

There have been many revolutions since Marx's time that have also shown the potential of bringing about a socialist society.

Organising together to fight for that change is the task that faces us all.

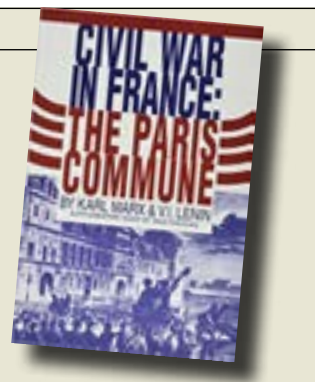
READ MORE

● **Civil war in France—the Paris Commune** by Karl Marx £9.99

● **The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx** by Alex Callinicos £9.99

● **Marx showed why workers have the power** by Sadie Robinson bit.ly/Marx2611

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Out of control—how the games industry fuels addiction

The NHS is set to start providing treatment to video games addicts. **Sarah Bates** asks how big the problem is and what is to blame

COMPULSIVE VIDEO gaming has been recognised as a mental health disorder by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the first time.

The definition means it should be easier for addicts to access treatment.

WHO says video gaming addicts have so little control over how much time they spend playing games that it “takes precedence over other life interests”.

Diagnostic criteria is useful for those who feel they struggle with compulsive gaming to help them access treatment.

It will also be a fight to ensure that services are available—it is a welcome step that the NHS has just opened its first Centre for Internet Disorders.

The impacts of video gaming addiction can be as dangerous as elements of other additions—relationship breakdowns, job loss and financial ruin.

Wesley Yin-Poole, deputy editor of the Eurogamer website, describes his addiction as “good old-fashioned, almost ruined my life kind of thing”.

“I fell into my overdraft, then began using my credit card to pay for bills,” he said. “Money didn't seem to matter, as long as I could afford the subscription fee.”

Marketed

Most people who play video games don't share this experience, but the way games are created and marketed has a role in how users access them.

Users can be attracted to games because of how they can be connected to other users globally and play alongside each other.

This means friendships can develop. It can also create a dynamic where players feel pressured to log in at certain times. Compulsive gaming can also be a symptom of

FORTNITE IS immensely popular among children

existing social anxieties. It's possible to see how video games can be a source of entertainment, but also relief in a difficult world.

WHO's announcement caused mass outrage from games and entertainment companies—who no doubt wish to protect an industry that was worth £83 billion in 2017.

And it's not an accident that games are designed to keep players hooked.

Many of the most popular games are based on a “freemium” model, so although the download is free, users are encouraged to make in-game purchases.

The go-to example at the moment is Fortnite—Battle Royale, an online game of cartoon-like violence popular among children.

This model means developers continue to make money from users who pay for extra features to boost their performance.

It also means there's an incentive to making a game as addictive as possible.

And developments in technology mean

smartphones are clever enough to process some video games.

In part, this has led many healthcare experts to become concerned about the overall time people are spending looking at screens.

Newspaper columnists like to exaggerate the scale of the problem, stirring up minor panic about the latest game that's consuming your child.

Coverage of Fortnite is the most recent example of that. Companies commodify this concern and are using it to sell products.

Trillion

Apple—a company worth over £8 trillion—announced an innovative feature for its new iPhone.

It's called “digital health” and is being marketed as helping users manage how much time they spend on their iPhones and iPads.

But just telling people they are spending too much time on a games console or a smartphone is not enough to stop them doing it.

Most of the world's estimated 2.2 billion active gamers will not fall into debt as a result of their hobby, or spend all night trying to beat their highest score.

It is also true that some do struggle with video game addiction, and would benefit from treatment.

Ultimately the addiction is a result of an industry that makes products that aim to get people hooked.

But it's also linked to a society that compels people to escape from reality.



There's an incentive to making a game as addictive as possible

Unofficial postal walkout in the Valleys

by NICK CLARK

POSTAL WORKERS at a Royal Mail delivery office in Ferndale, South Wales, staged an unofficial strike last Tuesday and Wednesday.

The CWU union members walked out after a long-running dispute with a manager came to a head.

Between 25 and 30 people stopped work last Tuesday morning, saying they wouldn't return until the manager had been moved or there was a formal investigation.

Amarjite Singh, CWU South East Wales Amal branch secretary told Socialist Worker, "The members were at the end of their tether and couldn't see any option."

"They did not want to walk out—it was a last resort. This is a delivery office that has never walked out unofficially before."

The dispute with management follows the merger of the delivery office with one in nearby Treorchy last year.

Amarjite said that management had failed to manage

BACK STORY

Bosses at Royal Mail promised to change management culture in an agreement last year

● They signed it in order to head off a major dispute by CWU union members

● Yet postal workers say they are not seeing the changes promised

● Workers at Ferndale delivery office in South Wales walked out unofficially last Tuesday

● It was over a manager's behaviour

● And workers at another South Wales delivery office in Swansea are balloting for strikes over a sacking of a worker

the new combined workplace properly.

The new manager was accused of not sticking to agreements signed between the CWU and Royal Mail over staffing arrangements for annual and sick leave.

After talks, CWU reps believed they had made progress. But then, said



EATING THE bosses for breakfast on the Ferndale picket line

Amarjite, the manager "turned everything that was agreed on its head".

The manager left work on Friday 22 June and didn't come back until last Tuesday—after which the workers walked out.

They only returned after CWU reps reached a new agreement with bosses. The

walkout came as Royal Mail workers at another Wales delivery office—Swansea—prepared to ballot for strikes.

They are demanding that bosses reinstate Martin Henwood—a sacked Royal Mail worker of 32 years with no disciplinary record.

Management accuse Martin of not following

procedure on unaddressed mail, despite the fact he followed the protocol of the office.

Martin's workmates demanded a strike ballot at a mass gate meeting. The ballot was set to begin on Wednesday and end next Thursday.

Gary Williams, CWU South West Wales Amal branch

secretary, said, "Members here are furious at the way local management have behaved towards Martin."

"We are absolutely 100 percent determined to win his full reinstatement and we're expecting an overwhelming Yes vote in the ballot."

Behaviour

The disputes over management behaviour come despite a promise of "cultural change" made by Royal Mail in an agreement that headed off a major dispute last year.

Yet at CWU postal conference in April, several workers and delegates spoke of how they'd seen no change in bosses' attitudes.

And Amarjite said, "Royal Mail changing their culture—it's easier to say than to believe it will happen."

"Getting Royal Mail to change their stance and their culture is very difficult."

"Although we got the agreement, to me they haven't demonstrated that yet."

"Royal Mail doesn't make it easy for us because they just don't give us the trust in them."

**JOIN THE
SOCIALIST
WORKERS
PARTY**

- ☐ Yes, I'd like to be a member
☐ I'd like more information and to receive emails

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email

Return to SWP membership department, PO Box 74955
London E16 9EJ. Phone 020 7840 5602

Email membership@swp.org.uk



Subscribe to Socialist Worker

Have Socialist Worker delivered with your post every week for a direct debit of £5 a month

I want to subscribe to Socialist Worker with a monthly direct debit of £5

Name

Address

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I would like ____ extra papers to sell
(this will not be deducted from my bank account)

For official use only—this is not part of the instructions to your bank/building society

Sherborne Publications,
PO Box 74955 London E16 9EJ

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by direct debit

Originator identification no. 9 7 3 3 5 5

Our reference no.

1. Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To the manager:

Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

3. Branch sort code / /

4. Bank/building society account no.

5. Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Sherborne Publications direct debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the direct debit guarantee.

I understand that this instruction may remain with Sherborne Publications and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank or building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some types of account



Direct debit guarantee

■ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

■ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Sherborne Publications will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Sherborne Publications to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

■ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by Sherborne Publications or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.

■ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Sherborne Publications asks you to.

■ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Socialist Worker Subscriptions


Post PO Box 74955 London E16 9EJ

Phone 020 7840 5601

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

New York socialist vote shakes up the right wing

The victory of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in a US Democratic Party internal election last week reflects a mood to resist Trump, writes Alistair Farrow

 **THE US is more polarised by the day. On one side stands racist, sexist US president Donald Trump.**

On the other stands the millions who are fighting back. From those who went on the Women's March, to activists in Black Lives Matter, and the tens of thousands of teachers who struck earlier this year.

The election of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), in an internal Democratic Party election is a vivid illustration of that resistance.

She defeated Joe Crowley, a leading member of the Democrats in the House of Representatives, one of the central branches of government.

The DSA played a central role in Ocasio-Cortez's election victory and are already reaping the benefits.

In the 24 hours after the election result over 1,000 people joined the organisation. It has grown in size to over 40,000 members from some 5,000 in 2016.

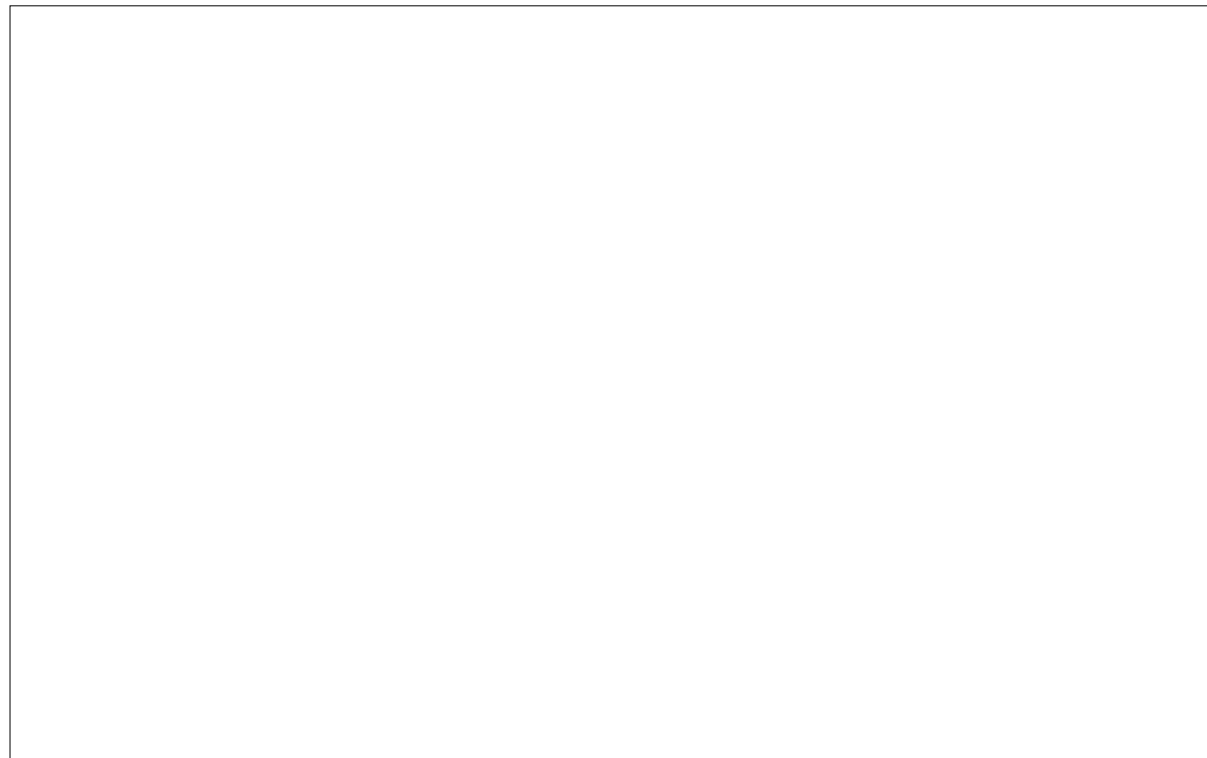
Joined

Abdullah Younnus is co-chair of the branch of the DSA in the Queen's district. "That's more than joined us after Trump's election. This is huge," he said.

"We've broken the Democrats' electoral model. Our electoral strategy sees chapters endorse candidates and then have campaigns run by members in those chapters."

The fight is on to decide in which direction the resistance travels. The Democratic Party leadership want it to be siphoned off into their electoral machine. It's crucial that isn't allowed to happen.

The DSA is formally separate from the Democrats, but members frequently belong to both parties.



ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ on the campaign trail

Ultimately, its aim is to achieve social-democratic reforms by transforming the Democratic Party. But, even more so than the Labour Party in Britain, the Democratic Party is beyond reform. It has repeatedly betrayed protest movements.

The DSA wants to roll out its model of campaigning across the country.

The chair of the DSA's chapter in Los Angeles, Sam Dean, told Socialist Worker, "It has already yielded victories at the state level in Pennsylvania and Virginia."

"Ocasio-Cortez will be able to use her public profile to support the coming waves of leftist candidates

and the ongoing non-electoral struggles across the country."

Abdullah pointed to the electoral fight to get Julia Salazar elected to the New York State Senate.

She's facing a similar opponent to Ocasio-Cortez—a Democratic incumbent who's been a state senator since 2002 and a city councillor for ten years before that.

Ocasio Cortez's victory has sent shockwaves through the US political establishment. It is now almost certain she will go on to represent the district in the House of Representatives. There she'll come up against the full weight of the Democratic Party machine.

Abdullah argues that having a powerful voice for the left in the House of Representatives could complement the movement on the streets.

That's true, but it comes down to where real power lies. Workers have the power to shut down the economy which, when they use it, trumps anything wielded by a politician.

As people get closer to office, they tend to move rightwards as they come under pressure to portray themselves as responsible managers of the state.

Despite this, the victory is an indicator of the mood of resistance to the attacks from the White House and is a hopeful sign of things to come.

Tension over how far to resist attacks on migrants

 **ONE KEY issue which set Ocasio-Cortez's campaign apart from Crowley, the establishment candidate was immigration.**

Some 70 percent of people in the district she won are from ethnic minorities. Her campaign demanded the abolition of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (Ice).

Far from backing off under outrage from ordinary people, Ice is continuing with business as usual, spurred on by

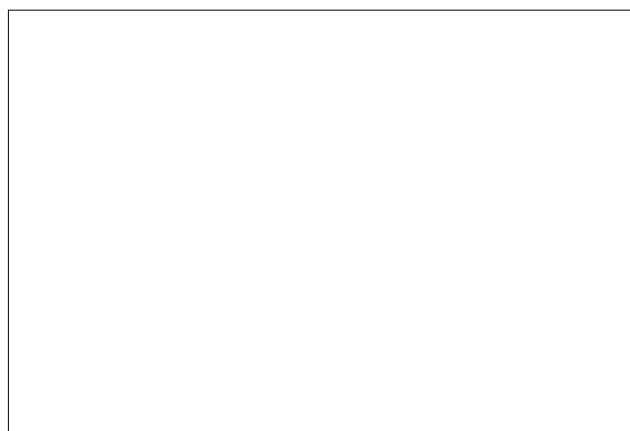
Trump's racist rhetoric.

The Democratic establishment have jumped on the protest bandwagon after the child separation scandal broke.

But their opposition is largely limited to how the issue polls among voters.

Some 66 percent of voters are opposed to the policy that has seen some 2,300 children separated from their families.

But when it comes to less popular policies, such as abolishing Ice, the party's leadership is quieter.




Ocasio-Cortez protesting against detention of migrant children

As Sam from Los Angeles DSA put it, the Democratic establishment has given up on "convincing their ostensible base of working-class Americans that it's worth showing up to vote for a Democrat who actually represents their interests."

Trump could be forced to back down.

Instead, the Democratic Party leadership has attacked protesters for targeting Republican politicians.

Anti-union law passes

 **THE US Supreme Court made a vicious ruling attacking trade unions last week.**

It means that unions can no longer automatically claim membership fees from public sector workers who are not in the union, but benefit from, for instance, negotiated rates of pay.


The Janus vs AFSCME case was voted through by five votes to four in the court.

Union leaders will now face a squeeze on their funds.

That makes rank and file action like the inspirational struggles waged by teachers all the more important.

During the court discussion trade union lawyers sometimes used conservative arguments. They said no-strike deals would no longer be guaranteed.

Muslim ban is upheld

 **TRUMP'S BAN on people from seven mainly-Muslim countries coming to the US was also upheld in the Supreme Court last week.**

The judgement found Trump had "ample power to impose entry restrictions," so long as he believed entry "would be detrimental to the interests of the United States".

The court's decision passed by five votes to four.

And now one of the "moderates" on the court is retiring, leaving one of the lifetime seats vacant for Trump to fill with another right winger.

This could trigger a series of new attacks on abortion rights that will have to be met by mass campaigns (see page 20).

IN BRIEF

Fresh housing scam from the Tories

THE TORIES want to remove social sector rents from their sham “affordable housing” definition. Their version of “affordable” includes rents of up to 80 percent of market rates.

There was no mention of social rents in the Tories’ draft National Planning Policy Framework. A final version of it is due to be published soon.

Councils have asked the government to include the tenure in the planning framework.

Statistics released last week showed 2.48 percent of the homes built in 2016-17 were for social rents.

It is not enough for councils to ask the Tories to remember council housing while they are gutting it. They must be forced to fight.

Pay strikes could rock universities

UCU UNION members in higher education (HE) have backed strikes over pay in a consultation.

Some 82 percent rejected a 2 percent pay offer and 65 percent backed strikes on a 47.7 percent turnout.

The union will ballot HE members between August and October for pay strikes.

It says workers have seen the real value of their pay fall by 21 percent since 2010.

Pay walkouts are just the ticket

TRAFFIC WARDENS in Hackney, east London were set to walk out over pay on Monday of next week.

It follows a 48-hour strike by the Unite union members in May.

The 40 wardens are employed by outsourcer APCOA Parking. They are fighting for a 5 percent pay increase and against unfair work practices.

Unite regional officer Onay Kasab said, “Our members are simply asking for fair pay and to be treated with fairness, decency and respect.”

Action to hit Scots oil and gas rigs

STRIKES ARE set to hit three oil and gas offshore rigs off the coast of Scotland.

Unite union members on oil giant Total’s Alwyn, Dunbar and Elgin rigs voted “overwhelmingly” for action over pay and working hours.

They are fighting against the company’s wage review and plans to increase offshore working time.

Unite regional officer Willie Wallace said the plans would “drive a coach and horses through workers’ work/life balance”.

Unite is also in dispute at a Total gas plant in Shetland, where 97 percent of workers recently voted for strikes.

SCHOOLS



STRIKERS ON the picket line at John Roan school on Tuesday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

More workers ready to join John Roan strikes

by MIRIAM SCHARF

WORKERS AT John Roan school in Greenwich, south east London, struck on Tuesday of this week.

It was the fourth day of seven scheduled strikes against a plan for the school to join a new academy chain, the University Schools Trust (UST).

The action has already got a result—the planned conversion will now not go ahead in September as was planned.

NEU union members were set to strike again on Thursday of this week and on 11 and 12 July.

GMB union members at the school will also strike on 11 and 12 July. Workers say

the joint walkout could involve 100 strikers.

A recent Ofsted inspection deemed the school inadequate.

NEU striker Gareth told Socialist Worker, “Ofsted’s impartiality has gone.

“The government has made it into the Department for Education’s hitman.

“Its mandate is to enforce the policy of forced academisation.”

He added that staff came to work at John Roan “because it’s an inclusive school”.

Many strikers fear that vulnerable children would be left behind if the academy goes ahead.

It’s one reason why many parents are backing the action.

Parent Annette explained

that she was concerned about special educational needs funding under the UST.

Kirstie Paton, assistant secretary of Greenwich NEU, told Socialist Worker, “It is clear that parents aren’t going to let this academy go forward without a challenge.”

●Send messages of support to johnroannut@gmail.com

■WORKERS AT Connaught School for Girls struck for the 13th time on Wednesday of last week.

NEU union members are demanding Inner London pay rates as an Outer London school.

A delegation of strikers lobbied the Department for Education.

WASHINGTON ACADEMY

NASUWT UNION members at Washington Academy in Sunderland began a three-day strike on Tuesday. It follows a walkout on Thursday of last week.

The union said the culture at the school “is having an

adverse impact” on teachers’ “conditions, health and wellbeing”.

NASUWT general secretary Chris Keates said teachers’ “deep concerns over pupil indiscipline and excessive workload remain

unresolved”. And John Hall, NASUWT national executive member for Sunderland, said teachers at the school “do not feel respected and valued”.

Workers plan a two-day strike on 17 and 18 July.

OBITUARIES

Helen Griffin
1958-2018

THE SWANSEA left has been left devastated by the passing of writer and actor Helen Griffin last week.

Her work challenged prejudice and injustice in a sensitive and often humorous way and importantly she matched her carefully crafted words with political activism.

A good example of her work was the film *Little White Lies*, which was loosely based on two events in South Wales.

These were the development of a racist gang around a former leader of the Ku Klux Klan, and the murder of shopkeeper Mohan Singh Kullar.

It won lots of awards but



Helen Griffin

never got a full distribution, perhaps because it called out the British National Party for stirring up racist violence.

Helen also appeared in the film *Twin Town and Doctor Who*.

In 2017 Helen took part in the launch of *Stand Up To Racism* in Swansea by

speaking at a special showing of her film. But her activism was not just confined to challenging racism.

Helen was also the spokesperson for Swansea Coalition Against War. She stood as a candidate in the European elections for the anti-war Respect Party.

In 2006 Helen was arrested for daubing red paint on the National Museum of Wales as a protest against Israel’s war in Lebanon.

The last time I saw Helen she was reading Dylan Thomas at a Momentum Christmas dinner.

The Swansea left will miss Helen, but her memory will be carried into every future campaign for peace and justice.

Martin Chapman

BIRMINGHAM

Springfield teachers keep up their weekly walkouts

WEEKLY THREE-DAY strikes by NEU union members at Springfield School in Birmingham are winning lots of support from parents.

And strikers have begun speaking to workers at other local schools to win more backing.

Workers are fighting a planned restructure that would lead to attacks on jobs, pay and conditions. They plan to strike between Tuesday and Thursday each week until the end of term.

The NEU agreed to talks while strikes continue. But academy chain REAch2, that plans to take over the school, has already begun filling posts on the planned new staff structure.

The chain has no funding agreement in place for the school.

A previous NEU letter to parents and carers said

workers were taking action “to defend the quality of education provided”.

It said the restructure would cut the number of experienced teaching staff at the school and create “unreasonable workload pressures”.

Parent Sariyei Begum told a local newspaper why she was backing the strikes. “They have been replacing staff teachers with supply teachers,” she said.

“The supply teachers are being used because they cost less, but it’s not good for the kids.”

An Ofsted inspection in July 2016 found that 11 teachers had left the school since September 2015. Long-term supply teachers were providing cover in five classes.

●Send messages of support to david.room@neu.org.uk

LANGDON PARK SCHOOL

Threat of indefinite action forces some concessions

NEU UNION members at Langdon Park School in Tower Hamlets, east London, suspended walkouts planned for Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

The decision followed significant movement by management and the Labour-run council over an £800,000 cuts package at the school.

It threatened compulsory redundancies, pay cuts and attacks on pastoral support for vulnerable students.

Workers formulated four demands around these issues at regular mass meetings.

Following negotiations last Monday the school and council made a significantly improved offer, which met three of the demands in full.

They guaranteed no compulsory redundancies and agreed to restore posts

for heads of year, who deal with pastoral care. They also withdrew all the pay cuts.

On the fourth demand—for an increase in overall staffing levels—the borough and school gave a written undertaking that they “intend” to do it.

They agreed that talks with unions will begin next week on how and when this will happen.

We persuaded the NEU action committee to go beyond the long-established pattern of only calling a maximum of three days of strike in any week. They authorised a potential five days a week.

This has significant implications for all future disputes. Our ballot remains in force for six months—and we will return to action if the talks do not produce what we hope.

Paul McGarr

HOUSING

Labour’s housing trouble

THE LEFT wing leadership of Labour-run Haringey council has come under fire for its treatment of people living on the Broadwater Farm estate.

Two blocks on the north London estate have been found to be unsafe.

Campaigners lobbied a council meeting last Tuesday to demand guarantees over tenants’ rights.

At the meeting the council voted unanimously for demolitions. A 28-day consultation process has begun over the plans. Jacob

Seker of Broadwater Farm Tenants and Residents Association demanded “a choice-based lettings scheme”. Tenants must be able to choose where they are going to live.

“The second demand is we must have a ballot on whether the block is going to be demolished or refurbished,” said Jacob.

“If they cannot guarantee one-for-one replacement of council housing at exactly the same rents, then no demolition.”

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bins strike to stop racism and bullying

by SARAH BATES

SOME 80 bin workers in Kirklees, West Yorkshire, began a six-day strike on Tuesday.

The Unison union members are fighting over bullying management, holiday entitlement issues and changes that have left the service “cut to the bare bones”.

They voted by 86 percent for strikes on a turnout of over 86 percent.

Around 30 street cleaners, who had not been balloted, refused to cross picket lines on the first strike day at the Huddersfield depot.

Management had to send them home with pay.

Strikers allege that a change in senior management has seen an increase in racism.

Bin worker Adam told Socialist Worker that “one of the managers has been making monkey chants and called people jungle boys”.

Kirklees Unison branch secretary Paul Holmes said, “Racism and bullying from management are commonplace. Some of the incidents being reported don’t just breach the council’s procedures, but break the law.”

And Adam says racism is just part of management’s arsenal of attacks.

“They tried to get us to eat

LAMBETH



“MANAGEMENT AREN’T listening” was the message from 50 Unison union members in Lambeth last Wednesday. They held a lunchtime walkout to protest against the latest “reorganisation” in the south London borough. The protest by Neighbourhoods and Growth staff was to tell senior management to stop pursuing an approach which will lead to more redundancies—and hit black workers particularly hard.

PICTURE: LAMBETH UNISON

our dinner in the wagons—which are filthy.

“We pointed to the wagon and asked a manager ‘would you eat your dinner in there?’ And he replied ‘I don’t have to.’ It wound people up.”

Strikers are also fighting against skeleton staffing of the service that means managers are refusing holiday requests because there are no workers available to cover the rounds.

Adam said, “We’ve had members put in for holidays three months in advance and they’re not approved.”

“Some of us have got over 1,200 hours of holiday which has built up.”

He added that access to holidays is an “absolute nightmare” for those with children.

“People want time with their families,” he said. “They

struggle to see them now.”

Adam said they have received “lots of support”. “The solidarity is important, because we’re not the only council suffering cuts,” he said. “I think we will win.”

Adam is a pseudonym. Strike rally and march, Friday 6 July, assemble 1pm, Vine Street, Huddersfield HD1 6NT. Messages of support to nickruff45@aol.com

CARE WORKERS



Sirona strikers on the picket line

Carers won’t work for free

CARE WORKERS in Bath and North East Somerset (BNES) have concluded a programme of action that saw them strike for two hours every other day for most of June.

The 120 Unison members are fighting against the introduction of an unpaid 30-minute break into each shift.

Bosses want workers to take a 30-minute pay cut per shift

or build up hours and work shifts to offset this—essentially for free.

Sirona bosses claim they have to make the cuts as BNES council have cut their funding by £215,000.

Speaking on the picket line, Unison steward Bernadette Yea said, “We will strike until Sirona accept that this is not an acceptable way of saving money.”

NURSERIES

Tories must deliver after pledge on Salford childcare

SALFORD SAVE Our Nurseries Campaign is asking its supporters to join a lobby of education secretary Damien Hinds and minister Nadhim Zahawi.

The nurseries were originally faced with closure this August.

But after a 300-strong public meeting and pressure from parents and unions, the mayor agreed a further £1.5 million to secure them until at least August 2019.

Campaigners also met

Hinds, who promised a statement confirming that he would work with them to find a solution. But the statement never came.

Campaigners are clear that they will continue the fight until the nurseries’ long term future is secured under local authority control.

Ameen Hadi

●No More Broken Promises! Fund our Nurseries! Lobby Thursday 5 July, 12.30pm, outside Midland Hotel, 16 Peter St, Manchester M60 2DS

LONDON UNDERGROUND

Tube battle set for when Trump comes to Britain

TUBE DRIVERS on the Piccadilly Line are set to stage a 52-hour strike over “working conditions and staffing levels”.

The walkout, from 9pm next Wednesday until 1am next Saturday, is set to coincide with US president Donald Trump’s visit.

The RMT union said bosses’ attacks have turned the line “into a pressure cooker”. Workers are fighting for bosses to employ enough drivers, and address concerns with the ageing Piccadilly fleet.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash asked bosses to “take issues at the heart of this dispute seriously and start engaging to make some genuine progress”.

■TRAIN maintenance and stores workers at the London Underground Central Line’s Ruislip depot in west London are preparing to strike over pay parity and other pay issues.

The RMT union members are set to walk out between Thursday and Sunday of next week, coinciding with a strike on the Piccadilly Line.

Workers have been on an overtime and rest day working ban in an effort to fight off the attacks.

They voted 95 percent for strikes on an 88 percent turnout.

And in the ballot for action over train preparation payments a vote of 86 percent was returned on a 93 percent turnout.

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

Step up fight to win ballot

ACTIVISTS IN the PCS civil service workers’ union have held protests and campaigning activities to drive up the vote in a national strike ballot.

PCS members are voting on whether to strike to beat a pay cap which has held civil service workers’ pay well below inflation since 2010.

A key task is to make sure more than 50 percent of union members vote to beat the turnout threshold imposed by anti-union laws.

PCS members at government workplaces held protests and actions last Friday—pay day—to highlight low pay.

Workers from HM Revenue and Customs, Department for Work and Pensions, Ministry of Justice and Independent Office for Police Conduct protested together in Manchester.

Activists in Birmingham have campaigned outside offices at lunchtime.

Meanwhile PCS members in Nottingham reported they had their largest meeting in years. Julie from Nottingham told Socialist Worker, “It was a really positive meeting—and the largest since the pensions dispute in 2011.”

“And we’ve recruited young people to the union through the campaign.”

Pete, an activist in Birmingham, said keeping up the campaigning is vital.

He has been ringing union members to encourage them to vote and found “good will towards the union”.

But, he said, “a lot of people haven’t yet voted”. “We can win this ballot with a combination of inspirational activities and attention to detail,” he said.

Nick Clark

FIREFIGHTERS

West Mids bosses retreat after a vote for fire action

STRONG SUPPORT for strikes among firefighters in the West Midlands has forced bosses to back down from an attack on their terms and conditions.

Members of the FBU union voted to strike after the West Midlands Fire Service tried to introduce contracts forcing new starters to take on extra duties.

The vote—90 percent for strikes on an 82 percent turnout—forced the bosses to drop their plans.

The changes could have forced firefighters on the new contracts to take on duties well outside their normal job role.

This could potentially have taken them away from front-line emergency work, and created a two tier workforce.

But West Midlands FBU

brigade chair Andrew Scattergood told Socialist Worker that after the strike vote bosses backed off from the changes.

They also agreed not to introduce any future changes without consultation with the FBU.

Andrew said that although the dispute is not over until the agreement is fully in place, the retreat by bosses means strikes are paused.

He said, “This highlights the significance of achieving a high turnout and a high yes vote in a strike ballot.”

Matt Wrack, general secretary of the FBU, said, “There is a huge strength of feeling among firefighters and emergency control operators that these contracts would have done huge damage.”

DEMOS TAKE ON TRUMP'S RACISM

by ALISTAIR FARROW

PROTESTS gripped towns and cities across the US last Saturday as hundreds of thousands of people demanded an end to Donald Trump's brutal border policies.

Some 700 demonstrations were recorded.

Around 2,300 children have been ripped from their parents following an immigration crackdown.

Trump signed an executive order on 20 June which officially ended family separation, but the process of reuniting families may not be completed.

Some families are expected never to be reunited.

Speaking to the crowds in Boston, Massachusetts, a mother demanded the return of her ten month old child. "Please fight and continue fighting, because we will win" she implored the crowd.

The protests have been big. Some 30,000 people marched in Washington DC.

Around 1,000 protested in Brownsville, Texas, last Thursday. Its on the US



THOUSANDS PROTESTED in San Francisco on Saturday

PICTURE: FABRICE FLORIN/Flickr

border with Mexico, one of the areas hit hardest by Trump's policy.

An immigration detention centre there holds around 1,500 children.

But the Trump administration is continuing its attacks.

The government recently announced it would build a canvas detention centre to hold 12,000 people near El Paso in Texas.

The marches were called under the banner of Families Belong Together.

Some protesters demanded the end of all barbaric border policies.

In Portland, Oregon, protesters have blocked off Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice) buildings with an encampment. Similar

protests have taken place in other cities. People also demonstrated last Saturday in Canada against their government's immigration policy.

The protest movement is beginning to expose some of the hypocrisies of the

Democrats and other liberals. Democratic leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi last week described protesters targeting Republican politicians as "harassment".

Trump hailed Ice agents on Twitter last Saturday.

"To the great and brave men and women of Ice, do not worry or lose your spirit," he tweeted.

"You are doing a fantastic job of keeping us safe by eradicating the worst criminal elements. So brave!"

On 26 June a federal judge ordered that all children and parents be reunited by 10 July.

Since children can only be detained for 20 days this would mean the release of parents from immigration detention as well.

However, Trump is looking to change the legislation.

The fight for justice for migrants cannot be limited to the courtrooms—it must continue on the streets and spread to workplaces.

More online

For a longer version, go to bit.ly/Trumpdemos

ABORTION

It's time to go on the offensive to stop this new threat to women's rights

WHILE THE family separation scandal has brought hundreds of thousands onto the streets, the Trump administration has carried on its attacks elsewhere.

Trump is targeting women's rights. He has already come out in support of anti-abortion bigots March for Life.

Now a new threat has emerged with Anthony Kennedy's retirement from the Supreme Court.

Trump is likely to replace Kennedy with a more conservative figure. He is set to announce the appointment on 9 July.

This has led to



Women have been at the forefront of protesting against Donald Trump

speculation that the legislation which made abortion legal in the US, the ruling in the famous Roe vs Wade case, could be scrapped.

In an interview on Sunday, Trump said that abortion law could be devolved.

"You never know how that's going to turn out. That's a very complex question.

"It could very well end up with the states at some point."

That means, rather than an outright national ban on abortion, states would have more freedom to introduce punitive

measures for women who have abortions.

The nine judges on the Supreme Court are appointed for life. Any changes Trump makes could take decades to undo, if left to government procedures.

The landmark ruling of Roe vs Wade happened in the context of a decade of struggle for women's rights.

The current movement challenging Trump and the White House can defend the gains of the past, but can also grow and achieve its own victories. Now is the time to go on the offensive.